



## Going Home with a Cannula

## Patient information Leaflet

**June 2019**

The purpose of this leaflet is to help you manage a child with a cannula at home.

### **What is a cannula?**

The cannula is a flexible tube that has been placed in a vein. It is usually on their hand or the inside of their elbow but sometimes can be placed on your child's foot.

### **Why does my child need a cannula?**

Your child has been seen by a doctor who has decided they need treating with intravenous antibiotics. This means that their medicine is being given directly into a vein.

If we feel that your child is well enough we can discharge you from the ward and send you and your child home with the children's community nurses to give the antibiotic at your home. If this is not possible for your child we may send you home 'on leave' between antibiotics. You must however arrive back on the ward at the time your nurse tells you so she/he can give the antibiotics at the right time.

### **How is the cannula fitted?**

Once the cannula is fitted, it is bandaged to protect it. For smaller children and babies a splint may also be used to support and protect the cannula.

Whilst at home it is important to protect the cannula as it could still get knocked or dislodged.

Please:

- Do not allow it to get wet
- Take care when removing your child's clothing
- Ensure your child is supervised when playing

### **What happens if the cannula comes out?**

If the cannula comes out whilst at home, use a clean tissue or cloth to apply pressure to the site for about 2-5 minutes, as it may bleed a little. When the bleeding stops cover the site with a plaster, if available.

Please telephone either the Children's Community Nurses or the ward and inform them as a further cannula may need to be put in so that your child can complete their prescribed course of treatment. (**see contact numbers below**)

If you are to return to the ward for your child's antibiotics the nurse will write the time and date it is due. Please arrive back on the ward at least 15 minutes before this time.

Date	Time

### **Useful Contact Numbers:**

- Children's Unit 0161 922 5252 (24 hrs)
- Children's Community Team 0161 922 5251 (08.00-20.00 mon-sun)



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