

Changing the Dressing SKILL

Watch the Video

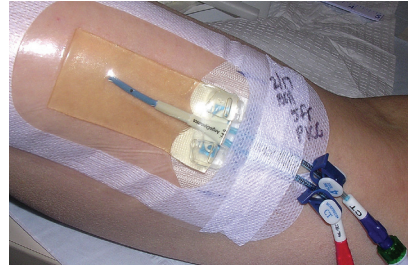
- ▶ Watch the DVD included in your kit or go [HERE](#) to watch the video online.

Overview

Keeping your CVAD from getting infected is very important. You want to make sure no bacteria enter into your central line. One of the ways this is done is to keep a sterile dressing over the central line entry site. CVADs are covered with a transparent dressing. Some may have a transparent dressing only, some a gauze covering, and others may have an antimicrobial sponge (Biopatch). At the end of this booklet, your health care provider will check the type of dressing you have and how often your CVAD dressing needs to be changed.

The CVAD dressing should be changed every 7 days. It will need to be changed sooner if:

- ▶ It becomes wet or moist
- ▶ The transparent dressing is loose and no longer totally covers the CVAD entry site
- ▶ There is gauze under the dressing (in which case you will need to change the dressing every 48 hours)



Transparent dressing only



Transparent dressing with gauze



Transparent dressing with Biopatch

STEP 1: PREPARE YOUR WORK AREA

1. Clean and prepare your work area.
2. Gather your supplies. You may have a central line dressing kit that has all of the following supplies:

- Alcohol wipes
- Sterile gloves
- Mask
- Chlorhexidine (ChloroPrep™)
- Transparent dressing
- Gauze (optional)
- Antimicrobial patch (Biopatch optional)
- Tape (optional)



Supplies

3. Wash your hands the right way.
4. Keep the site clean. Avoid breathing on the CVAD during a dressing change by wearing a mask or turning your head away. If this is not possible, place a mask on the patient.
5. Open your central line dressing change packet. The mask is often at the bottom or top of the kit.
6. Put on the mask.
7. Wash your hands again.



Dressing change packet—your mask is at the top or bottom

STEP 2: REMOVE THE OLD DRESSING

1. Put on clean gloves.
2. Carefully remove the old dressing—lift from the edges.
3. Hold the catheter secure and be careful not to pull on the central line.



Hold the catheter secure

STEP 3: CHECK THE ENTRY SITE

1. Look for any redness, skin irritation, or drainage.
2. Check the length of the catheter to make sure it has not moved farther out or in.
 - Look at the numbers or marks on the side of the catheter. If there are no markings, then measure the amount of catheter that exits the body with a tape measure.
3. Do not touch the skin around the insertion site.
4. Remove the clean gloves and fully open the central line dressing kit.

STEP 4: PUT ON STERILE GLOVES

Putting on sterile gloves may seem like a simple or obvious task, but it is important to do it properly. Follow the steps below that show how to properly put on sterile gloves.

Your ungloved fingers should never touch the outside of your gloves



STEP 5: CLEAN THE ENTRY SITE

1. Use chlorhexidine to clean the entry site.
2. Rub in a back-and-forth motion around the entry site.
3. Be sure to clean all areas that will be covered by the dressing.
4. Allow the chlorhexidine to dry for 60 seconds. Do not blow or fan the area.

STEP 6: APPLY THE DRESSING

1. If used, place an antimicrobial sponge over the catheter site with the blue side up.
 - Sometimes dressings will have an antimicrobial sponge built in as one piece.
2. Cover the catheter site with a sterile transparent dressing. Place the clear dressing on the skin, covering the area where the catheter exits the body. Start with the top end, smoothing it across the area. Be sure that the dressing extends at least an inch around the exit site.
3. Secure the catheter in place.
 - If the line is long or exits from the chest, you may loop the tubing and secure it to the skin.
 - Some catheters may not be long enough to loop.
4. Remove your gloves and wash your hands.



Place antimicrobial sponge



Cover with sterile transparent dressing

