

## Day Surgery Unit (Vascular Access Team)

# Day Surgery - Discharge advice following the removal of a permanent cuffed tunnelled vascular catheter (Hickman line)

### Introduction

You have come in for the surgical removal of your cuffed tunnelled vascular catheter.

### Nutrition

You do not need to starve before your operation to have the line removed.

### Mobility

You can resume normal activities after your operation, but avoid heavy lifting for around one week.

### Bathing

You may shower or bath as normal after discharge from hospital, but you must keep the wound dry for the first 48 hours.

### Driving

You may resume driving 48 hours after your operation.



## Patient Information

### **Sexual relations**

You may resume your normal sexual relations as soon as you feel well enough to do so.

### **Return to work**

You may return to work after your operation but avoid heavy lifting for one week.

### **Pain relief**

Whilst you are in theatre local anaesthetic will be injected into your wound, which should keep you pain free for four to six hours, until you reach home. You may then take your own, over the counter pain killers such as Paracetamol based medicines such as Paracetamol, Panadol, and Paracodol etc. but do not have more than the advised dose.

This should relieve any pain or discomfort you may suffer. Please take these tablets regularly for three to four days. It is advisable not to take Aspirin-based pain killers as this may increase the risk of further bruising. If however, you take Aspirin as a routine medication, it is advisable to contact your GP regarding its continuation.

### **Always read the instructions on medicines carefully**

### **Wound care**

Check the dressing for signs of bleeding (a little oozing is normal) but if there is excessive or fresh bloods please apply the following first aid instructions. Apply a little firm pressure over the wound using a clean dressing for 10-15 minutes.

If the bleeding does not stop or if you are experiencing any problems please contact us on telephone 024 7696 4000 (Main hospital switchboard) and ask to speak to the:

**Vascular access team on 25900**

**Or**

**Contact the Day Surgery Unit on telephone 024 7696 6861**

## Patient Information

### Contact your GP if your wound:

- Begins to swell;
- Starts to smell;
- Discharges secretions or bleeds;

### Follow up appointment

This is not needed unless you have stitches to be removed. Your GP practice will do this for you. You will be told before you leave the hospital what kind of stitches you have and when/how to get them removed.

### Contact details

If you have any concerns or problems following your operation, please contact the Day Surgery Unit: on 024 7696 6868 or 024 7696 6861 between the hours of 8:00am and 9:00pm

The Trust has access to interpreting and translation services. If you need this information in another language or format please contact us on 024 7696 6868 and we will do our best to meet your needs.

The Trust operates a smoke free policy.

To give feedback on this leaflet please email: [feedback@uhcw.nhs.uk](mailto:feedback@uhcw.nhs.uk)

#### Document History

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