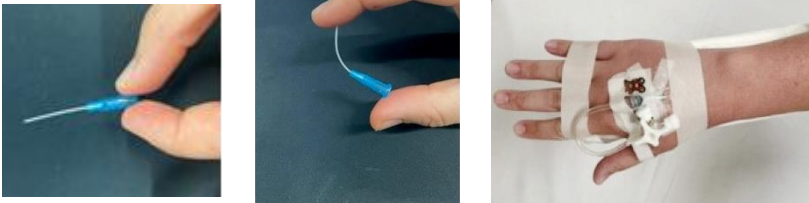


Peripheral Intravenous Cannula (PIVC)

What is a PIVC?

A PIVC (or cannula / drip) is a small flexible plastic tube that sits in a vein and is used to give intravenous (IV) therapies (medicine that is given into a child's vein) or take blood samples.



How is a PIVC inserted?

- The PIVC is usually placed in your child's vein in their arm, hand, or foot.
- There is a needle inside the plastic tube that helps guide it into the vein. This needle is removed once the PIVC is in the right place. It is only the plastic that stays in.
- Sometimes we collect blood for tests if needed at this time.
- Another tube is then attached which enables us to give the therapy.
- A dressing is applied to keep it in place. To ensure the PIVC is secure we often use a splint and bandage.



Are there any possible issues?

- Insertion can be especially challenging in children and may not be successful the first time.
- PIVCs can become blocked or accidentally fall out and your child may require a new PIVC to be inserted.
- A PIVC can cause inflammation of the vein or infection which may require treatment - this is why we ask you to help us monitor the cannula site for any redness or heat.

How can you support your child when they need a PIVC?

Before a PIVC being inserted

- You know your child best. Discuss with us what comforts or bothers them.
- Feelings are contagious - calm yourself first.
- Help them know "why" it is needed, focus on the positives.
- Make a comfort plan. Give them simple choices (e.g. look or not look). See **Keeping Kids in No Distress (KKIND)** page online: <https://pch.health.wa.gov.au/Our-services/Keeping-Kids-in-No-Distress>



- Choose a **comfort position**
(<https://www.megfoundationforpain.org/comfort-positions-a-guide-for-parents-and-healthcare-professionals/>)
- **Comfort tools** can help (e.g. numbing cream, BuzzyBee, Smileyscope and breath tools).
- Ask us if you want to know more.



During a PIVC being inserted

- Help your child focus on something they love (e.g. toy, music, device).
- Help them use belly breathing (e.g. blow a pinwheel, pretend candles). See breathing for comfort with SuperMeg!
<https://www.megfoundationforpain.org/breathing-for-comfort-with-supermeg/>
- Your positive words and soothing actions can help your child feel more comfortable. See Epic Kids page online:
<https://epickids.org.au/parents-caregivers/>



After a PIVC has been inserted

Your child can still play and cuddle with a PIVC.

Once the PIVC is in place, we will monitor it frequently to check for complications.

Please let us know if you have noticed any redness, pain or swelling, any leakage or if the dressing becomes loose or stained. It is important you let us know if you are concerned about your child's PIVC.

PIVCs are removed when they are no longer needed.



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