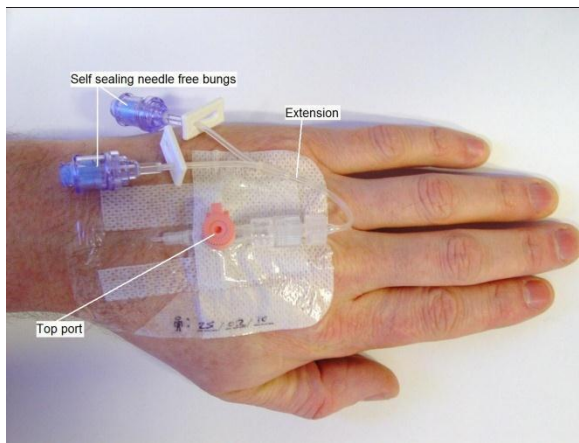


What is an intravenous cannula?

A cannula, which is commonly referred to as a Venflon, is a small flexible plastic tube that is inserted through the skin into one of your veins.

If it is inserted in a very clean way (aseptic) and, if free from other complications, it can stay in for 3 days.

If it is not inserted using an aseptic technique, for example in an emergency, it will need to be removed within 24 hours because there is a higher risk of it becoming infected.



What are the benefits?

It allows nurses and doctors to give you medications, fluids, and blood products directly into your blood.

Some treatments are only designed or are more effective given directly into the blood.

Your medical condition may prevent you from taking tablet medication.

How do staff look after your cannula?

Staff should clean their hands and wear gloves whenever the cannula is used by clinical staff.

Staff monitor and record twice daily the integrity of the cannula.

How do I look after my cannula?

Try to keep your cannula and dressing clean and dry. Use a rubber glove or cling film when washing.

Only touch the cannula if you need to.

Do not pull the cannula or any tubes that may be attached to it.

Take care when changing clothing.

Report any redness, pain or swelling to a member of staff immediately.

Your cannula must be removed before you go home unless you are informed otherwise by a doctor or nurse.

Once your cannula has been removed there is a risk of infection getting into the hole in your skin. This is most common within the first 48 hours after the cannula is removed. You can reduce this risk by keeping the area clean.

If you notice any redness, pain and swelling contact your doctor or nurse immediately.

If you have any questions about the information in this leaflet, please speak to a member of staff.



**PATIENT
INFORMATION**

Your Intravenous Cannula (Venflon)

