

Guidelines for parents for taking full blood count (FBC) from a central line

Equipment

- Clean washable tray (kept specifically for central line use)
- Non sterile gloves
- 10ml syringes
- Blue needles to draw up drugs and/ or flushes
- Sterile syringe caps
- Sani-cloth disinfectant wipes
- 10ml ampoule normal saline
- 5ml ampoule Hepsal
- Needle transfer device
- Blood bottles
- Sharps bin
- Pen

If your child has a double lumen line

When you have taken blood, the second lumen will also need flushing, so you will require extra equipment.

Procedure

1. Wash your hands thoroughly before preparation, using liquid soap and dry them on a clean piece of kitchen roll or paper towel.
2. Collect all equipment needed and lay it all out next to your freshly washed tray.
3. Put on a pair of gloves.
4. Take the syringe and blue needle out of their packets and put the blue needle on the syringe. Ensure that all equipment is removed from packaging in the correct way, by separating the edges of the packaging and not pushing the syringe or bung through the packaging as this contaminates it.
5. Draw up 5ml of Hepsal (checking expiry date) into the 10ml syringe and put the empty Hepsal ampoule in your yellow sharps bin. Repeat this process with 10ml saline.
6. Take off the blue needle and put it in your sharps bin. Make sure there are no air bubbles in the syringe. Put the sterile syringe cap onto the syringe and then place syringes on tray.
7. Attach a sterile syringe cap to two further 10ml empty syringes. Place on tray.
8. Remove your gloves and wash your hands.
9. Take the tray with the four syringes, sani-cloths and clean gloves to your child.
10. Take the new gloves, syringes, sani-cloth wipes, needle transfer device and blood bottles on the tray to your child. Lift up your child's clothing for free access to the line.

11. Put on new gloves.
12. Fully open the sani-cloth and using several different parts, clean the bung thoroughly for 30 seconds and allow to air dry for 30 seconds. Once the bung has been cleaned it is important that it does not touch anything – hands, clothes, skin etc. If it does, it must be cleaned again with a sani-cloth wipe and allowed to dry.
13. Remove the sterile syringe cap and firmly insert the tip of an **empty** syringe into the centre of the bung, turning gently to screw it into place. Open the switch/clamp. Withdraw 3ml of blood by pulling the plunger outwards, unscrew the syringe then discard it into the yellow sharps bin.
14. If you are unable to withdraw blood from line, ask your child to change position, lift up their arms or cough. If this does not work, insert the saline syringe into the centre of the bung. Flush the line with about 1ml of saline. **See point 17 below if you cannot easily flush the line.**
15. Remove the sterile syringe cap and firmly insert the tip of the second **empty** syringe into the centre of the bung, turning gently to screw it into place. Withdraw blood by gently pulling the syringe plunger outwards (the amount will depend upon what blood tests are required – you will be told by the hospital staff).
16. Unscrew and remove the syringe, attach the needle transfer device onto the blood bottle and allow the vacuum to draw blood into the bottle. Discard the syringe and transfer device into your yellow sharps bin. Gently invert the bottle to mix the blood – do not shake it. Clean the bung again with a sani-cloth wipe and allow to air dry for 30 seconds.
- 17. If you cannot easily flush the line, ask your child to cough, change position or raise their arms. If this does not help, do not try to force saline/Hepsal into the line. Contact the hospital for further advice.**
18. Insert a second saline syringe into the bung and flush with saline.
19. Finally inject the Hepsal using a stop/start flushing technique by gently pushing the plunger, allowing a brief pause approximately every 0.5ml and clamp the line when 1ml of Hepsal is left in the syringe. Unscrew the syringe and re-clean the bung with a sani-cloth wipe.
20. While still wearing gloves, put all needles and syringes into the sharps bin. Remove gloves, wash your hands and dry the tray.
21. Label the blood bottle. Wash the tray. Remove gloves and wash your hands.

Points to note

- Lines with a clamp, such as Hickman lines, must be clamped in between the 'clamp here' marks on the line.
- If you need to do more than one blood test at a time it is important to know which blood bottle to fill first, so check with nursing staff beforehand.

For further information and help telephone Piam Brown day ward on 023 8120 4249 or Piam Brown ward on 023 8120 4816/4817.