

## **SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS OF CENTRAL LINE INFECTION**

1. Take your temperature everyday. If you have an increased temperature (above 38.0 C or 100.5 F), with or without chills, especially when associated with flushing line or starting IV fluids let your nurse know.
2. Drainage from exit site. If fresh blood and less than 1 tsp this is OK. If greater than 1 tsp, or draining out from under the dressing or drainage looks like pus, call your nurse to assess the site.
3. Pain, tenderness, redness or swelling at the exit site and/or traveling along the skin where the line is located may indicate a line infection and should be reported.
4. Check the exit site carefully every day and with every dressing change.

## **HOW TO CARE FOR YOUR CENTRAL LINE**

1. Tape plastic wrap over dressing for showering. Try to keep line site out of water. If water gets under the dressing, notify your nurse that you need a dressing change. If dressing is no longer intact, reinforce with tape. This is not an emergent matter, but should be taken care of within 24 hours.
2. Everyday look in the mirror to assess that each arm/shoulder area are the same size. If you see an increase in size on the side where your central line is located or you have a feeling of skin tightness over the line area, call your local nurse to assess your line.

## **TROUBLESHOOTING**

1. **Plugged catheter:** Unable to flush your catheter with normal force
  - a). Make sure that all clamps are open
  - b). Do not force the flush into the catheter
  - c). Call your nurse if you are unable to flush line
2. **Break in the catheter:** Leakage from the catheter.
  - a). Immediately clamp the catheter between the leak and your body.
  - b). Go to your local emergency room immediately.

