It is really important that your line (catheter) is well looked after at all times to prevent infections or the line becoming blocked. You can easily help prevent complications by following the correct procedure to care for your line.

Important signs to look out for include:

- raised temperature
- any **pain, redness** or **swelling** in your arm, side of your neck or chest wall where your line has been placed.

These signs must be reported immediately to the Triage team or the department where you are receiving your treatment.

Triage: 01865 572 192
Haematology: 01865 235 048
Oncology: 01865 235 012

The dressing covering your line needs to be changed 24 hours after the line has been put in, then at least every 7 days. It will need to be changed more often if it becomes loose, wet or blood stained. The medical tape ‘necklace’ should be changed at the same time.

To prepare for changing your dressing:

1. Make sure you have washed and dried your hands.
2. Ensure you have a clean area to work from.
3. Gather together everything you need: Chloraprep, semi permeable dressing, new medical tape for necklace.
How to change your dressing:

1. Gently remove the old dressing, being careful not to disturb the line.
2. WASH AND DRY YOUR HANDS AGAIN.
3. Open the packet of Chloraprep and dressing onto a clean surface to allow easy access.
4. To clean with the Chloraprep: Squeeze the wings at the side of the applicator once with the sponge pointing down. Once the fluid reaches the sponge, start cleaning the insertion site and area surrounding it. Rub the area round and round and up and down for 30 seconds. Always make sure you carefully rub away any dried blood from round the insertion site. Be careful not to dislodge your line.
5. Allow the area to air dry.
6. Apply your dressing over the line as shown by your nurse.
7. Put a new tape necklace on to support the tails of your line.

How to care for your line when bathing or showering:

IT IS VERY IMPORTANT YOU KEEP THE DRESSING AND TAILS OF YOUR LINE DRY.

1. Cover the dressing at the insertion area with some gauze.
2. Put the tails on top of the gauze.
3. Cover the tails and gauze with a waterproof dressing.
4. After showering/bathing remove the waterproof dressing. If the underlying dressing is wet you will need to remove it immediately and replace it following the procedure above.