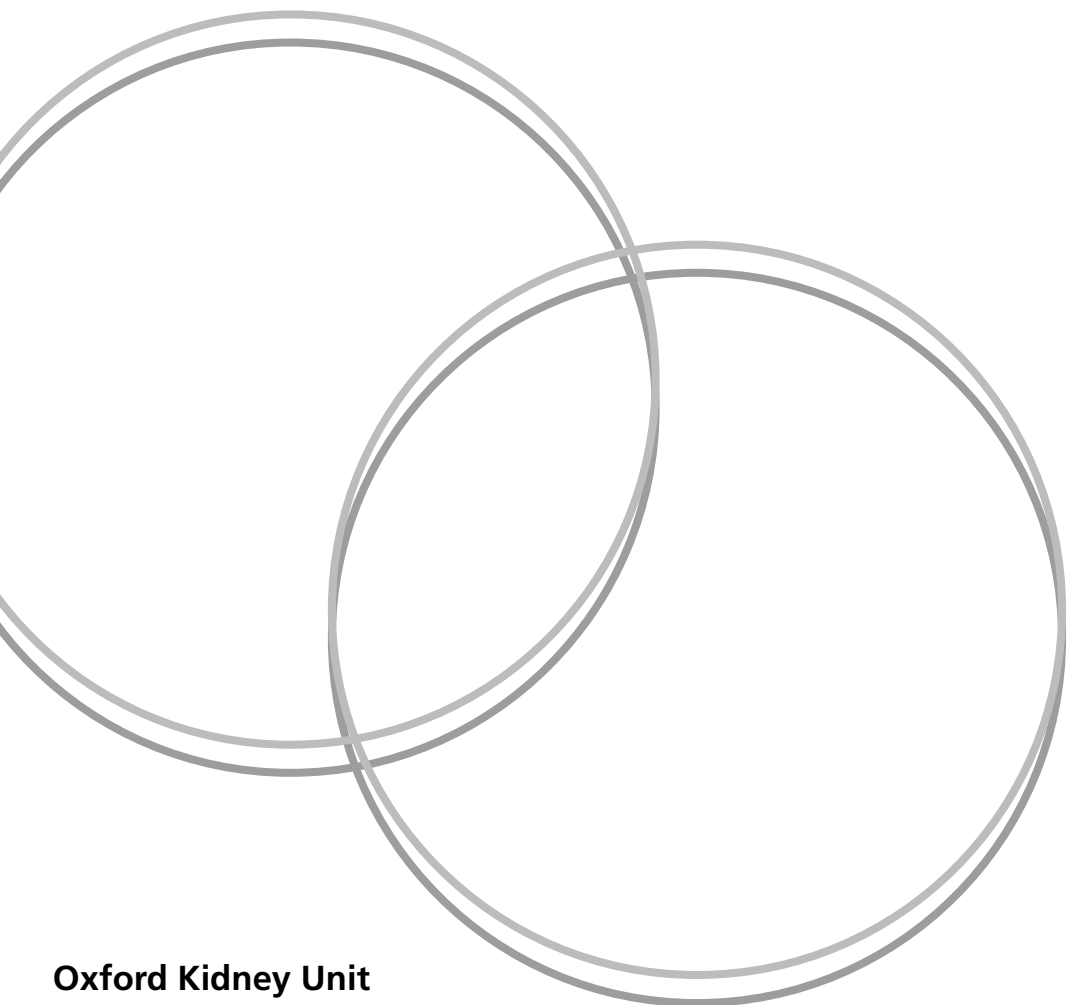


Insertion and removal of your temporary line for haemodialysis

Information for patients



If you have been told you need to have a temporary line so that you can have haemodialysis this leaflet is for you. If you have any questions after reading this leaflet please talk to your nurse or doctor.

There is a separate leaflet on haemodialysis so please ask for a copy if you have not been given one.

What is a temporary line?

A temporary line may also be known as a dialysis line or a haemodialysis catheter. It is a small plastic tube which is inserted into one of your large veins usually in your neck or your groin. When you need dialysis the tube is attached to two separate pipes (lines) on the dialysis machine. One line removes the blood from you, which is then cleaned by a filter within the dialysis machine. The clean blood is then returned to you through the other line.

Why do I need a temporary line?

You need dialysis because your own kidneys are not working well enough to keep you feeling healthy. This can lead to a build up of salt, water and waste products in your body, as the kidneys would normally get rid of these things in your urine. Haemodialysis removes these waste products and excess water from your body when your kidneys aren't working properly.

If you need a temporary line for another reason than needing dialysis your kidney team will explain this to you.

Where is the line inserted?

Your line will be inserted by a kidney doctor or nurse in a procedure room on the ward.

There are two types of temporary line; a 'groin line' and a 'neck line'.

- A **groin line** is placed into the large (femoral) vein in your groin. It is usually removed after a few days.
- A **neck line** is placed into the large (internal jugular) vein in your neck. Neck lines can be used for up to ten days.

It may be difficult to say how long you will need the line for, but the kidney doctor will advise you on which line is the most suitable. If you require dialysis for longer than a few days, then another line will be inserted in the most suitable place.

What will happen during the procedure?

You will lay flat on the bed during the procedure. The procedure usually takes around 30 minutes.

You will be awake for the procedure. An ultrasound machine, a small probe that is rolled over your skin and creates an image on a screen, will be used to help decide where is the best place to put the line in.

Once the doctor or nurse has decided on the best place for your line, they will clean your skin with an antiseptic and cover the area with a sterile (clean) sheet. Local anaesthetic will be injected into your skin where the line is to be inserted. This does sting a little, but then the area will go numb.

A small cut is made and using a special kit we introduce the temporary line into a wide vein in your neck or groin. As we insert the line into the vein you will feel a bit of pushing, which may feel uncomfortable at the time, but it should not be painful. The line will be secured using two stitches, which will be removed when the line is taken out. The exit site will be covered with a sterile clear dressing.

Are there any risks?

Generally, insertion of a temporary line is a very safe procedure. Rarely, complications can occur and it is important to be aware of them as some may need treatment. These can include:

- bleeding (serious bleeding is very rare)
- pain (we can give you paracetamol or other pain relief after the procedure, if needed)
- infection. This is uncommon if the line is only in for a short period.

If you are having a neck line, there is a risk of:

- A collapsed lung (called a pneumothorax). This is extremely rare and a chest x-ray will be taken after you have the line inserted to check for this.
- Abnormal heart rhythms. The team will watch your heart on a monitor whilst the line is being inserted.
- Air embolus, this is very rare. We will make sure you are lying flat.

Before you sign the consent form your doctor or nurse will discuss these with you, as well as any specific risks which might apply to you.

How will my temporary line be used?

Once you have your temporary line inserted it can be used immediately. If you have had a neck line inserted your line can be used after you have had a chest x-ray. A member of the dialysis team will attach the ends of your temporary line to the dialysis machine. Once you have completed your dialysis session, the line will be flushed with clean saline (salt water solution). We then inject a special fluid into the line, this reduces the risk of the line becoming blocked or infected.

What happens next?

Whilst you are in hospital we will be monitoring your kidney function closely. These results will help us decide whether you need on-going dialysis treatment. This will be discussed with you during your stay.

If you still need dialysis at this point, the team will talk to you about the treatment options available. When you go home you will then be followed up by your kidney doctor in your local renal outpatient clinic.

How do I take care of my temporary line?

Tell your nurse or doctor if you experience any of the following.

- pain at the insertion site that is getting worse
- feeling hot and sweaty, like you have a temperature. You may have an infection
- feeling short of breath
- bleeding, call for help urgently.

Although extremely rare your line can fall out. If this happens apply firm pressure to the wound for at least 5 minutes and call for help urgently.

Removal of your temporary line

Your temporary line will be removed once you no longer need it, or isn't working well or you have an infection.

Having the line removed isn't painful but can be a little uncomfortable.

What happens before my temporary line is removed?

Before your temporary line is removed your blood tests will be checked to make sure that you are not at an increased risk of bleeding.

What happens when it is removed?

We will ask you to lie flat on a bed.

The dressing will be removed and the area cleaned with a cleaning solution.

The stitches will be removed.

If the line is in your neck we will need to tilt your head down. We will then ask you to take a deep breath and hold it whilst we remove the line. Once the line is removed you can breathe normally.

The nurse or doctor will then pull the line out and press firmly on the puncture area for at least 5 minutes. They will then check to make sure there is no more bleeding. Once there is no more bleeding the site will be covered with a special dressing.

You will need to lie on the bed for 2 hours after the line is removed, this is to make sure you don't bleed. During this time the nurse will check the dressing for any bleeding and take your blood pressure on a regular basis.

If you go home after your temporary line has been removed please follow the advice on page 7.

Are there any risks when removing a line?

Although removing a temporary line is usually safe, there are some risks associated with it. Your healthcare team will watch you closely for any problems in the 2 hours after your temporary line has been removed.

- It is **normal to have some mild discomfort** and bruising in the days after your temporary line is removed. Painkillers such as paracetamol are usually enough to help and this should get better quickly.
- **Risk of bleeding.** This may be a small amount of blood which can be seen through the dressing after your temporary line comes out. If there is a larger amount of blood it is important to act quickly as this can be very serious and life threatening (see the box on page 8). Sometimes the bleeding is internal and cannot be seen. If you see bruising spreading in your leg or back, or suddenly begin to feel lightheaded when sitting or standing, you should seek urgent medical advice (see the box on page 8).
- **Risk of infection** where the temporary line was removed. Signs of infection include redness, swelling and pain. You may also see pus and you may feel feverish. If you notice any of these symptoms it is vital that you seek medical help quickly, either through your healthcare team, GP or the Accident & Emergency department at your local hospital. It is important to tell them that you have recently had a temporary line for haemodialysis removed.
- **Risk of air embolism.** This occurs when air accidentally enters the large vein through the hole where the temporary line was placed. This air can travel to your heart or lungs and stop blood from getting through. This is rare but is very serious and can be life-threatening. Your kidney team will reduce the chances of this happening by making sure that you are lying down flat when your temporary line is removed.

IF YOUR WOUND IS BLEEDING:

1. Call for help from a friend, family member or neighbour if possible
2. Put firm pressure on the wound and don't take it off for at least five minutes and until the bleeding has stopped. This also reduces the risk of air embolism
3. Seek medical advice (call 999)

How do I care for the dressing?

- Keep the dressing dry (no showering or bathing).
- Leave the dressing on for 48 hours. After this you can remove it.

Contact the ward where you had the line removed if:

- you notice any redness, swelling, pus or pain at the site or feel like you have a temperature. You may have an infection.

Further information

Renal Ward

Churchill hospital

Tel: **01865 225 780**

24 hours, including weekends and bank holidays

Main Haemodialysis unit

Churchill Hospital

Tel: **01865 225 807**

If no one is available to take your call please phone the renal ward.

Vascular Access Nurses

Churchill Hospital

Tel: **01865 225 910** or **01865 225 373**

8am to 4.30pm, Monday to Friday

(Please leave a message on the answerphone – for non urgent enquiries)

Useful websites

Oxford Kidney Unit

Lots of information about the Oxford Kidney Unit for patients and carers.

Website: www.ouh.nhs.uk/oku

Kidney Patient Guide

Information for patients with kidney failure and those who care for them.

Website: www.kidneypatientguide.org.uk

Kidney Care UK

A charity which has lots of practical support and information for people with kidney disease.

Website: www.kidneycareuk.org

Six Counties Kidney Patients Association

The SCKPA is run for patients by patients or family members.

They offer support to people suffering from kidney disease or who are on dialysis. They work closely with the Oxford Kidney Unit and have branches in Oxfordshire, Northamptonshire, Buckinghamshire, and Milton Keynes, and parts of Wiltshire, Gloucestershire and Berkshire.

Website: www.sixcountieskpa.org.uk

National Kidney Federation

A charity which has lots of practical support and information for people with kidney disease.

Website: www.kidney.org.uk

NHS Website

This website has information about dialysis

Website: www.nhs.uk/conditions/dialysis/what-happens

Further Information

If you need an interpreter or would like this information leaflet in another format, such as Easy Read, large print, Braille, audio, electronically or another language, please speak to the department where you are being seen. You will find their contact details on your appointment letter.

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