

Let's Talk About...

Patient Safety: Peripheral IV Infiltration Prevention (PIV)

What is a PIV?

Your child has received a peripheral (pe-riph-er-al) IV (eye-vee) or intravenous (in-trah-VEE-nuss) device while in the hospital. A peripheral IV (PIV) is a tiny, flexible tube inserted into a vein. It is used to give fluid or medicines.

We are sharing the following information with you so you can be an advocate for your child.

PIV safety

Your child's healthcare providers work hard to prevent problems that may occur with your child's PIV. The most common problem is when IV fluid or medicine leaks out of the vein that has the PIV. If this happens, IV fluid may get into the surrounding area. Some fluids and medicine can be harmful to the tissue and can cause long-term skin and tissue damage.

Preventing PIV problems while your child is in the hospital

Each letter in the word **FACT** stands for something that your child's healthcare provider does to help prevent problems with a PIV. They will do this every hour when fluids or medicines are given through the PIV.

Your child's healthcare team will do these things:

- **Flush** gently your child's PIV before and after medicine is given through it. If your child has IV fluids flowing into the IV all the time, the PIV will not need to be flushed. The PIV will need to be assessed and flushed regularly even if not in use.
- **Assess** the area or site where the PIV enters your child's body. This area should be easy to see and there should not be anything covering it.
- **Compare** the site of the PIV with the opposite hand, foot, or wherever the PIV is placed.
- **Touch** the site to assess for pain or swelling.



We encourage you to help us by doing these things:

- Speak up if a member of your child's healthcare team is not assessing your child's PIV every hour.
- Look at your child's PIV site a few times a day and let your nurse know if there is redness, swelling, or pain.
- Let your child's healthcare team know if you have more questions or concerns about the site.
- Let your nurse know right away if your child complains of pain with the PIV especially when medicine is going into the IV.

What if I have more questions?

Your child's healthcare providers are always available to help answer your questions and make sure you and your child are as comfortable as possible during your hospital stay.

