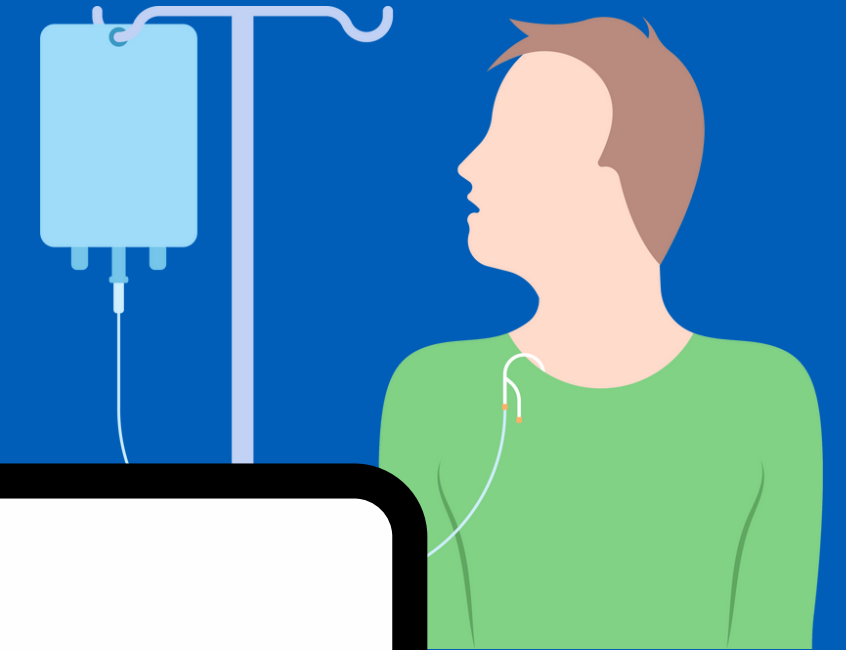


RETURNING TO COMMUNITY

With a central line

**WHAT DO YOU KNOW
ABOUT CENTRAL LINES?**

What is a central line?



A central line is a medical device that provides patients with medications, fluids, blood products, or nutrition. It is a long, thin tube. It goes into a large vein in the body, often in the upper arm, chest, or neck.

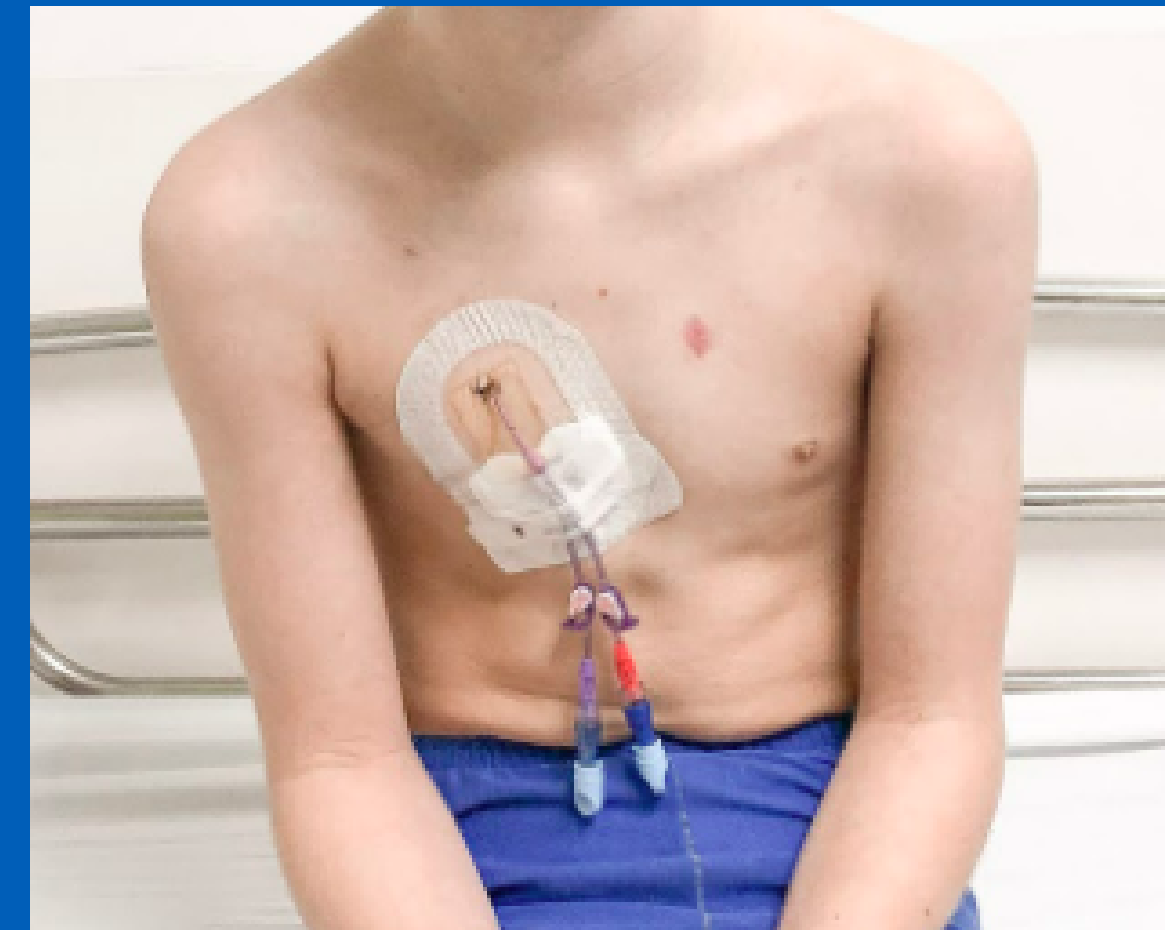
What is a central line?



Peripherally Inserted Central Catheter (PICC) inserted in the upper arm



Implanted Venous Access Device (IVAD, Port) inserted in the chest



Tunneled Central Venous Catheter (CVC, Hickman, Broviac) inserted in the chest

Why are central lines used?

A person may need a central line when they need frequent or long-term medication or treatments. Central lines can also help when a person's veins are difficult to access, or when the treatment would harm small veins.

Risks and complications

Central lines can be very helpful. However, there are some risks, including infection, bleeding and blood clots. There is also a small risk that the central line will break, or that an air bubble could enter the blood stream. This is very rare. You can reduce the risk by monitoring your child, and contacting PIVOT if you have questions or concerns.

Common problems with central lines in the community

1. Dressing falls off
2. Cap falls off
3. CADD pump alarm sounds
4. Minor bleeding from PICC (within the clear dressing window)

Common problems with central lines in the community

What to do:

1. If the dressing falls off

- Ask the child or youth if they have additional dressings.
- Open the new bandage and use it to cover the peeling area.
- Call the PIVOT Clinic. Tell them what happened.



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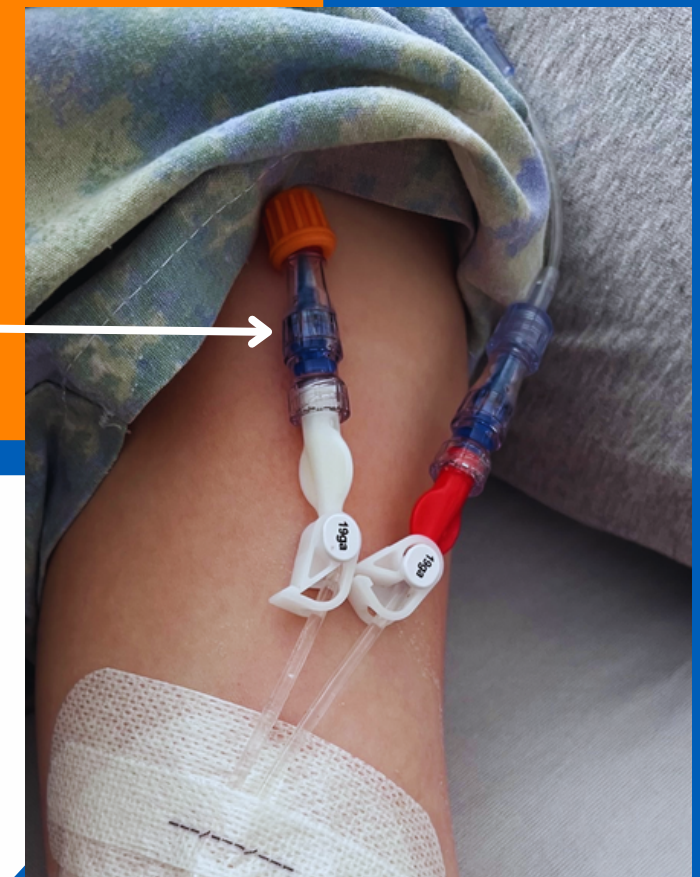
Common problems with central lines in the community

What to do:

2. If the cap falls off

- Clamp the line and wipe the end of the line with a chlorhexidine swab.
- Take a new cap and screw it onto the end of the line.
- Call the PIVOT Clinic. Tell them what happened.

"cap"



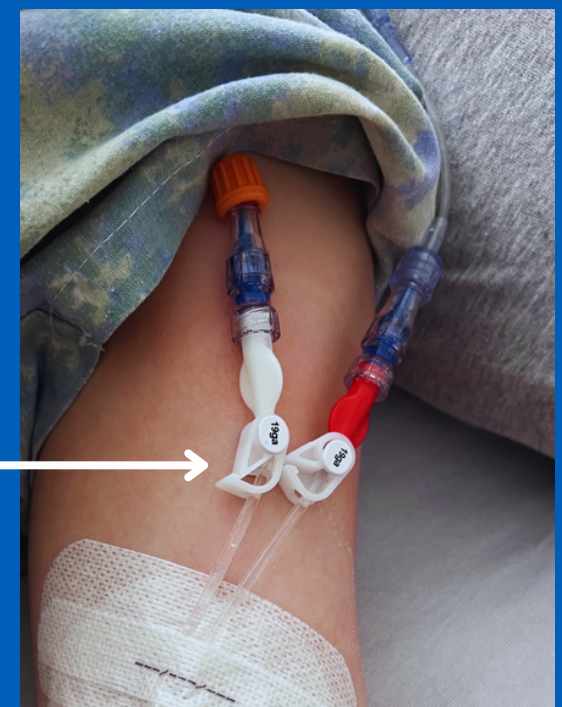
Common problems with central lines in the community

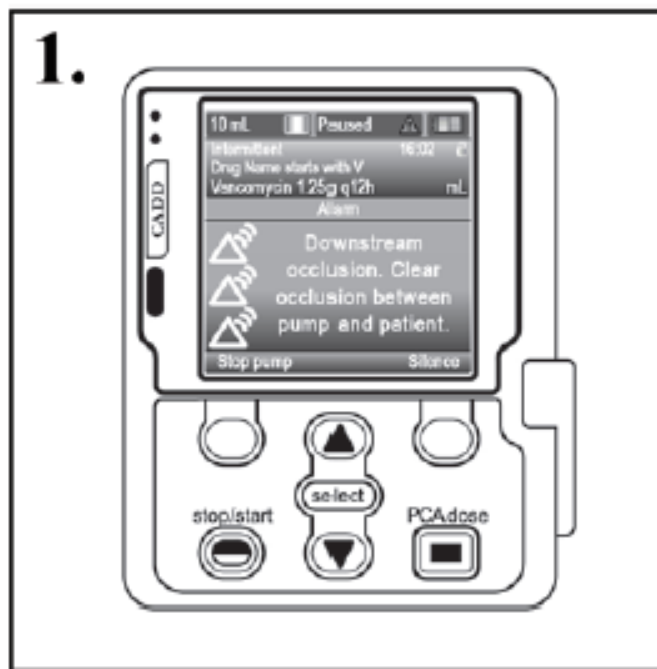
What to do:

3. If the CADD pump alarm sounds

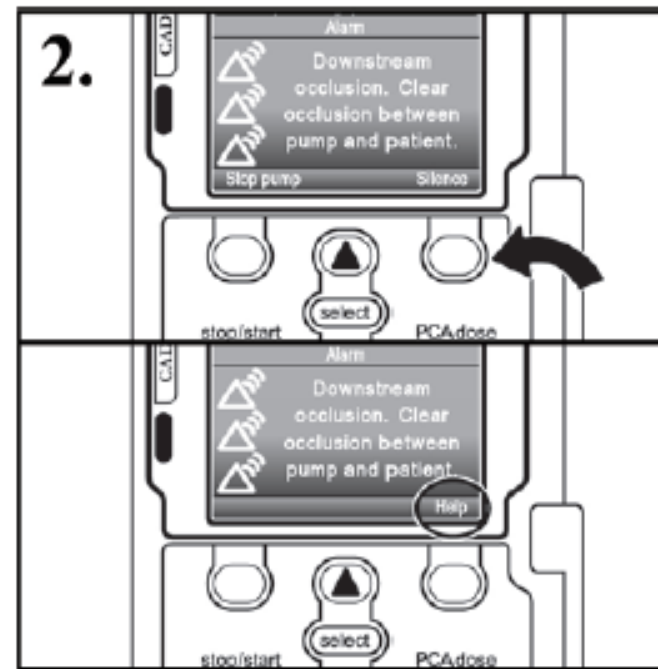
- Try to solve the problem by following the directions on the screen.
- If you cannot solve the problem, then push the 'stop' button then 'yes' then the 'power' button then 'yes.'
- Clamp the tubing from the pump. Then, clamp the central line.
- Call the PIVOT Clinic. Tell them what happened.

"clamp" →

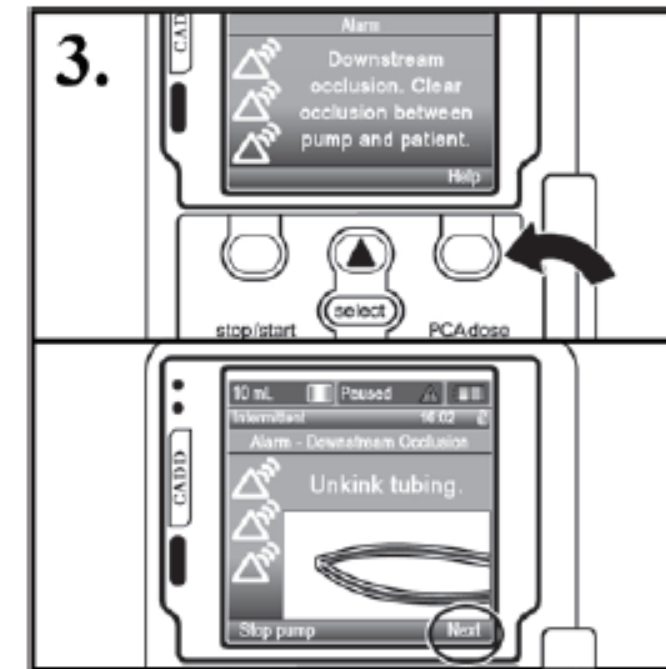




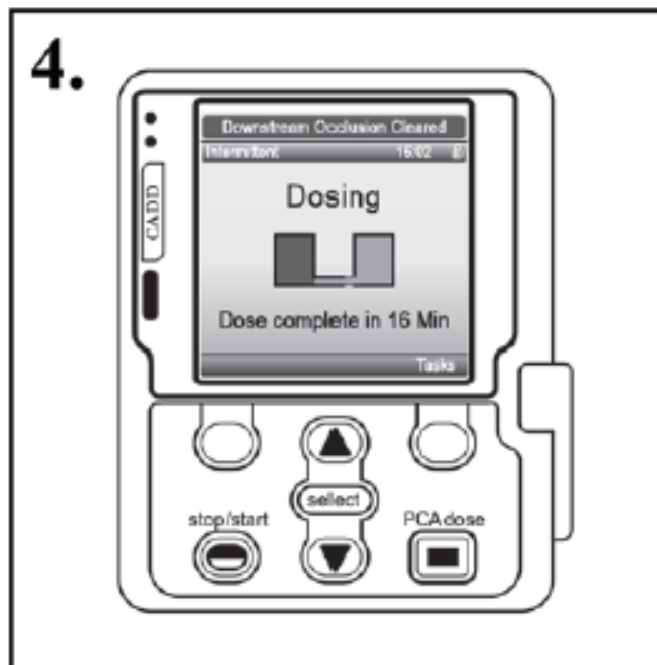
- Alarm occurs



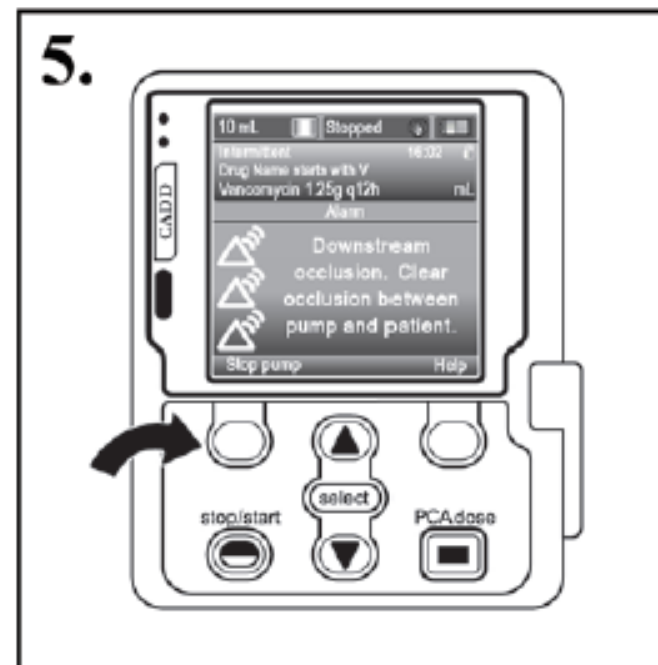
- Press 'Silence'
- Silence becomes 'Help'



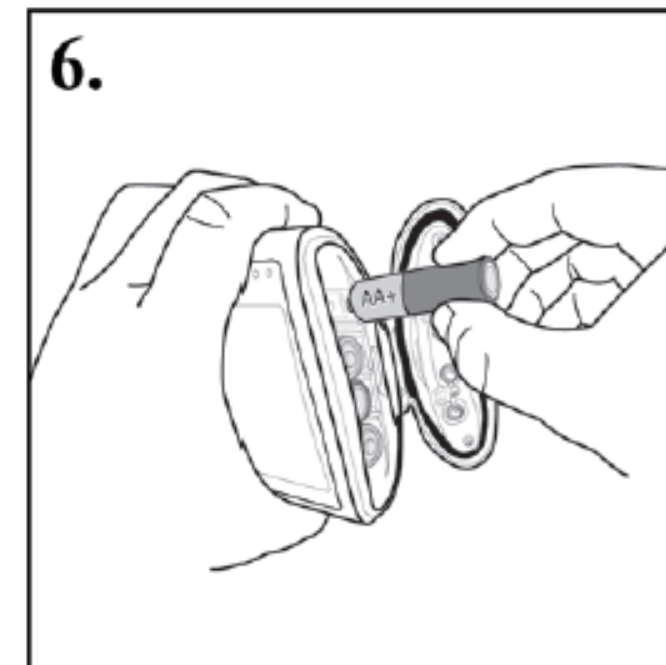
- Press 'Help' button
- Help becomes 'Next'
- Keep pressing 'Next' to get to help screens.
- Try to solve problem (eg. kink, move arm, clamp)



- If blockage is fixed, pump will start running again



- If unable to fix, press 'Stop pump'



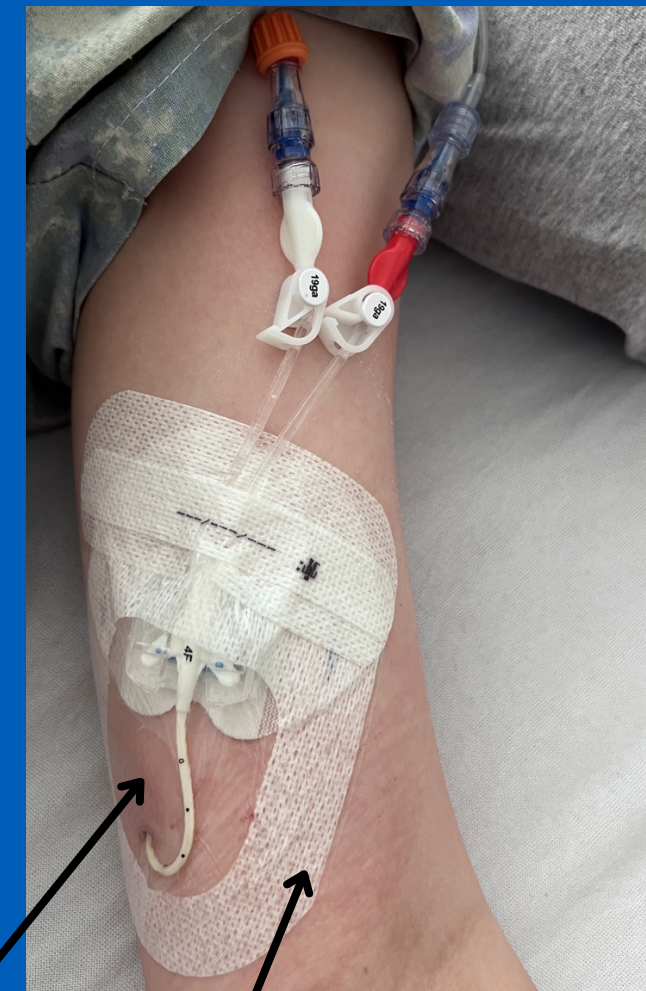
- Power down pump:**
- Pump will be stopped
 - Remove batteries
 - Call health unit

Common problems with central lines in the community

What to do:

4. If there is bleeding from the PICCC

- As your child becomes more active, a little bleeding is normal. You may see a small amount of blood in the clear window of the dressing.
- If there is blood outside of the clear window, you must change the dressing.
- Bleeding outside of the dressing is not normal. If this happens, apply gauze, a clear dressing, and apply pressure. Notify your PIVOT team or the BCCH Vascular Access Team. After hours, go to the Emergency Department.



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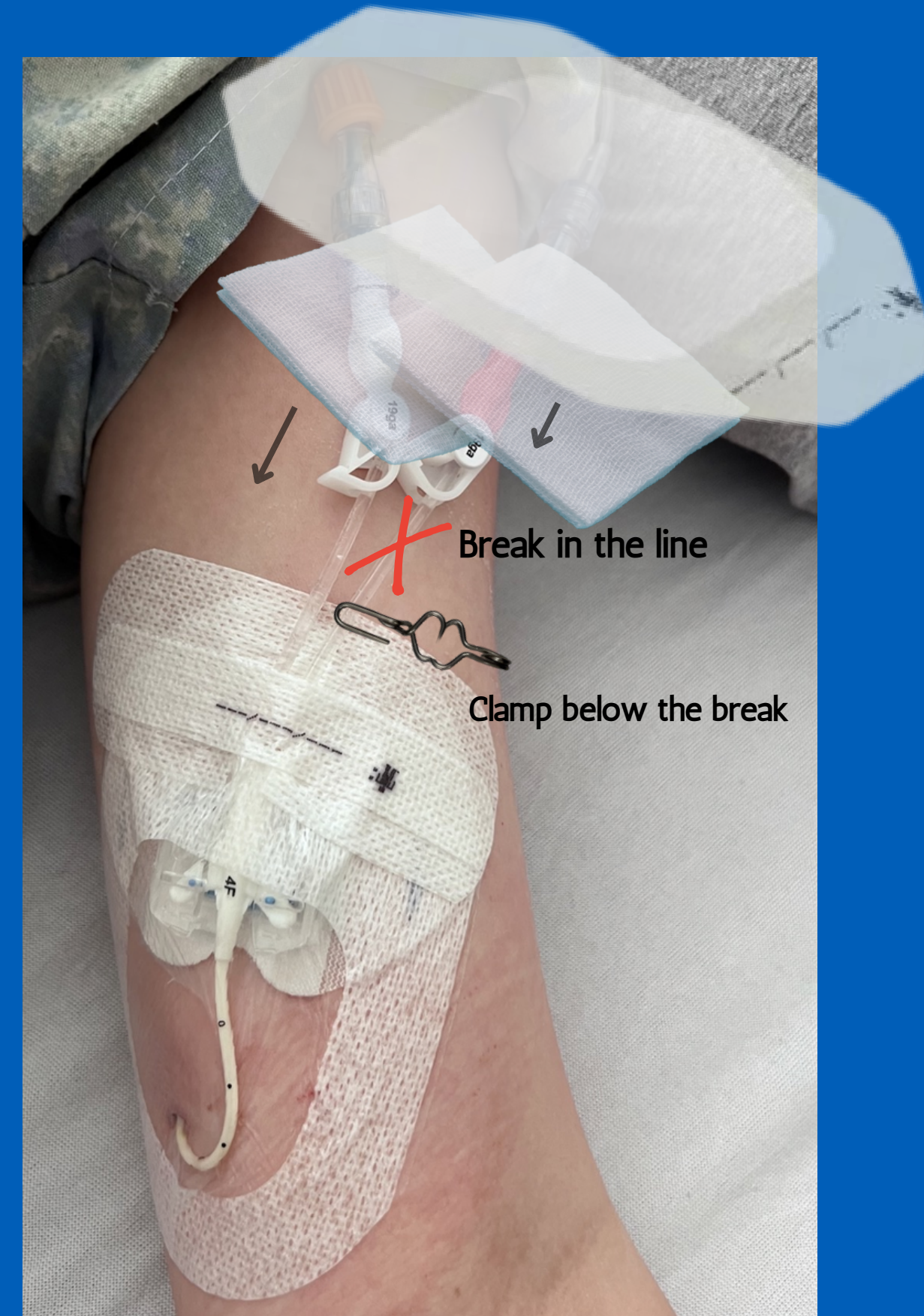
What to do in an emergency:

4. If the central line breaks CLAMP, COVER, CALL

This is an emergency. There is a risk of air entering the blood stream.

CLAMP, COVER, CALL

1. **Clamp** the line below the break (closer to where it comes out of the body).
2. **Cover** the broken area with the sterile gauze (remove from package). Stick the big clear dressing over top of the whole thing (gauze and clamp).
3. **Call** the PIVOT clinic or Vascular Access Team. Call 911 if your child or youth has difficulty breathing or is showing signs of distress.



What to do in an emergency:

Every child / youth returning to the community with a central line will have a 'clamp, cover, call' kit on their person at all times.

Please communicate with the child / youth's caregivers about where this kit is kept and if you would like an additional 'clamp, cover, call' kit.

Stay calm. The most important step is clamping the line. If you forget everything else *just clamp that line* and give us a call. We will walk you through what to do next.

How to accommodate a student with a central line:

**For
teachers:**

If a student in your class has a central line, it is important to be aware of any special accommodations they may need. They may need extra time or breaks to respond to alarms on their pump or help reinforcing their central line dressing. They may also need to avoid certain physical activities that could dislodge or damage the central line.

Activity restrictions for children and youth with central lines:

1. *Avoid swimming or soaking in water:* This is to reduce the risk of infection around the central line insertion site.
2. *Avoid heavy lifting or strenuous exercise:* This is to reduce the risk of damaging or dislodging the central line, which could lead to complications such as bleeding or infection.
3. *Avoid contact sports:* This is to reduce the risk of the central line being accidentally pulled or dislodged by contact with other people or objects.
4. *Avoid wearing tight clothing or backpacks:* This is to reduce the risk of pressure or friction on the central line insertion site, which could cause pain or irritation.

Communicate with parents and healthcare providers:

It is important to communicate with the child / youth's caregiver and healthcare providers to ensure that everyone is on the same page regarding the child / youth's care and any necessary accommodations.

CONTACT INFO

We are always just a phone call away!

PIVOT Clinic 604-862-6824 (call or text)

Vascular Access Team 604-875-2445 say 'VAT Nurse'

Email: pivotclinic@cw.bc.ca