



**THIS
LOOKS
LOOSE**



**DO I
STILL
NEED
IT?**



**WHY DO I
HAVE IT?**



**IT'S
A BIT
SORE**



**KNOW YOUR
IV LINES**

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WHAT PATIENTS SHOULD KNOW

If you have an intravenous (IV) line or cannula, know why you have it, how it should feel, the risks involved, and what you can say to prevent problems.

“WHY DO I HAVE IT?”

An IV cannula lets your nurse or doctor give you medicine and fluids directly into your blood stream. An IV line is not a needle; it is a thin and flexible plastic tube.

“DO I STILL NEED IT?”

You don't need to wait for a nurse to check your IV line. If it's no longer needed or hasn't been used for 24 hours, ask if it should be taken out. Before leaving the hospital, have it removed.

“THIS LOOKS LOOSE.”

Your IV line should be secured with dressing and tape so it does not move around. Try not to knock it against anything. Ask your nurse how to keep it clean and dry in the shower.

“IT'S A BIT SORE.”

An IV line comes with risk of infection. It is normal to feel strange, but it shouldn't feel sore. If you feel any pain, burning, swelling, or bleeding, ask your nurse if it should be taken out.

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