


Title	Portacath: Accessing an Implantable Port
Version	2.0

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The purpose of this SOP is to ensure safe use and access to a Portacath. The port should be accessed for flushing as recommended by the manufacturers, usually every 4-6 weeks.


All healthcare professionals involved directly with accessing a Portacath, with appropriate training and completed competencies.

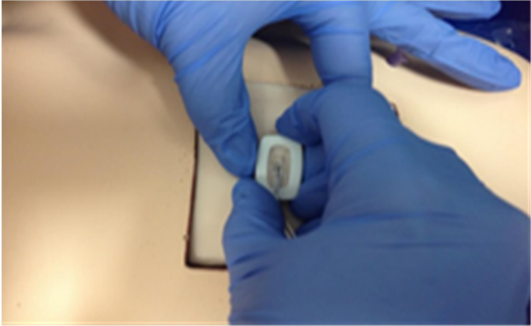
Part A: Preparation

No.	Description of Procedural Steps
1	<p>Prepare equipment and medication required using an aseptic technique. (ANTT or traditional sterile technique)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sterile dressing pack • Sterile gloves/apron • Chloraprep 2% (3ml sponge applicator) • 10ml Luer lock syringes and 21G hypodermic needles • 0.9% Sodium Chloride and Heparin 100units/ml • 20/22G Non Coring Gripper/Huber needle (appropriate length). • Bionector/white bung • Transparent semi-permeable dressing • Sharps Box •
2	Wash hands. Apply gloves and apron, continue with the procedure using an aseptic technique.
3	<p>Prime gripper needle with 0.9% saline and clamp the line</p> 
4	Check the patient's identification and medication with 2 trained members of staff (Medicines Management: Policy MM03/MM04)

No.	Description of Procedural Steps
5	Ensure the patient is comfortable. Remove any topical local anaesthetic cream from the port site. Locate the port and identify the septum.

Part B: Procedure

No.	Description of Procedural Steps
1	Clean the patient's skin over the port site with 3ml Chloraprep applicator. Gently apply to the skin using repeated up and down, back and forth strokes for 60 seconds. Allow to dry for 30 seconds.
2	Stabilise the port between your thumb and index finger. Using a perpendicular angle, push the Portacath needle through the skin and port septum until the needle just hits the back of the plate of the port.
3	<p>Remove protective cap from the gripper set and attach an empty 10ml Luer lock syringe. Maintain positive pressure on the syringe plunger prior to unclamping/clamping. Undo the line clamp; draw back gently on the syringe to obtain a 'flashback of blood.' (If no flashback seen but confident that the needle is in the correct place then proceed with a slow 0.9% saline flush. If in any doubt seek guidance and do not use).</p>  <p>Regularly observe the port site for signs of swelling, increased resistance or if the patients' reports/shows any signs of discomfort. Stop procedure and discuss with Senior nurse/Doctor and refer to SOP for unblocking implantable ports if required.</p>
4	If blood samples are required, take a 3ml discard of blood, clamp the line, disconnect the syringe, then attach a new 10ml Luer lock syringe and obtain the sample then clamp the line. Then flush with 20-30mls 0.9% saline using pulsatile pressure. If no bloods are taken, flush with 10mls.
5	If the needle is to be left in situ. Secure Portacath needle by placing a small piece of gauze around the entry site (if required) and apply a semi permeable dressing. If removing Portacath needle, flush with 4mls of 100units/ml of Heparin.

No.	Description of Procedural Steps
6	<p>To remove the Portacath needle; stabilise the port with your thumb and index finger. Withdraw the needle gently, using steady traction. Apply a small plaster if required.</p> 

References

Loveday H. P. et al (2013) National Evidence Based Guidelines for preventing Healthcare Associated Infections in NHS Hospitals in England (epic 3)

http://www.his.org.uk/files/3113/8693/4808/epic3_National_EvidenceBased_Guidelines_for_Preventing_HCAI_in_NHSE.pdf

- NHS Improvement High Impact Interventions
https://www.ips.uk.net/files/6115/0944/9537/High_Impact_Interventions.pdf

Royal Brompton Clinical guidelines: Care of Children with CF 2020

The Royal Marsden Manual of Clinical Nursing Procedures
<https://www.rmmonline.co.uk>

LRI Children's Hospital Standard Operating Procedure (SOP)
Title: Needling and Flushing Implanted and Central Venous Access Device - Port a Cath UHL
Childrens Nursing Guideline Trust Ref: C157/2016 V: 3 Approved by The Children's Clinical Practice Group: May 2019

UHNM Medicines Management: Policy MM03/MM04

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/public-information-campaign-focuses-on-handwashing>