

Further information

Information on who to contact, ie web sites / telephone numbers of other departments / organisations which may be of help.

How to contact us

Infection Prevention and Control
Watford General Hospital
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Vicarage Road
Hertfordshire
WD18 0HB

Tel: 01923 217309

Email: stephanie.depinto@nhs.net

If you need this leaflet in another language, large print, Braille or audio version, please call **01923 217 187** or email westherts.pals@nhs.net



NHS

West Hertfordshire
Teaching Hospitals
NHS Trust



A guide to...

Midline

Patient information

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Ratified / Review Date	January 2023 / January 2026
ID Number	31/2076/V1

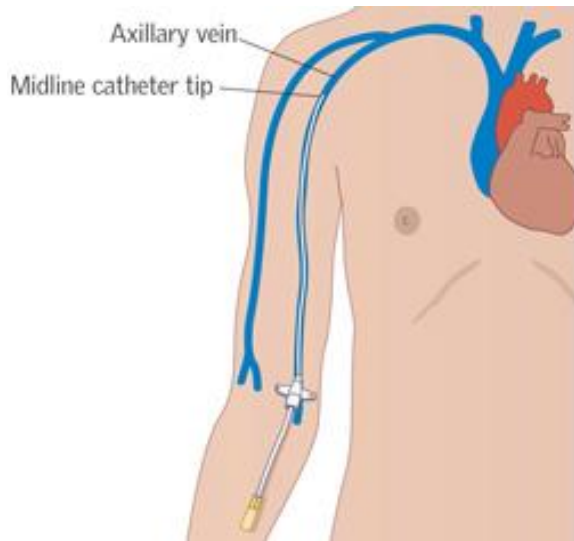


Why do I need a midline?

A midline is recommended for patients who need long term antibiotics (up to six weeks) or have difficult intravenous access (hard to inject in a vein) to reduce the number of times a cannula has to be inserted into a vein.

Midlines are also suitable for an intravenous antibiotic course at home (outpatient parenteral antimicrobial therapy).

A midline will reduce the amount of vein punctures a person has and support with vessel health preservation.



What is a midline?

A midline is a narrow, hollow tube (catheter) that is put into a vein in the arm, usually above the elbow. Ultrasound is used to identify the vein to be accessed. The tip of the catheter will lie 7.5 to 25 cm in length within the axillary vein (the vein in the shoulder)

The midline will be dressed with a semi-permeable dressing on a weekly basis (at a home setting or at the hospital), unless indicated otherwise.

To protect the dressing from becoming wet (especially when washing), it should be covered with a bath guard or alternative e.g. clingfilm

Do not submerge your midline in water.

Activities

You should be able to move your arm freely, without any restraint. Do not feel that you must keep your arm immobile. However, we advise you avoid activities such as tennis, golf, and vigorous gym exercise. Please do not swim with your midline.

Removing the midline

When your course of treatment has finished, the midline will be removed by a healthcare professional. This is done by gently pulling the catheter out of your arm and should be pain free.

Midline Information

Date inserted: _____

Length inserted to: _____

External length: _____

Inserted by: _____

Advice is available over the phone Monday-Friday, 9 am - 4 pm,
call: Watford General Hospital switchboard: **01923 244366**,
connect with bleep holder: **1154**