

# Getting a Central Line

## What is a Central Line?

A central line catheter is a thin, flexible tube that is placed into a vein in the neck or chest area. One end of the catheter rests in the vein, near the heart and the other end of the catheter is brought through the skin.

## Why Do I Need a Central Line?

Your doctor has determined that you need a central line catheter.

Central lines are a very effective way to:

- give IV fluids or medications that need to be placed directly into a vein, such as chemotherapy and immunotherapy
- give transfusions or take blood samples

Consistent access to a central vein preserves the veins in your arms and limits the amount of needle sticks.

## How Will My Central Line be Inserted?

Your central line will be put in place by an interventional radiologist.

You will be given a local anesthetic and the end of the catheter that extends through the skin will be held in place by two sutures.

This site may initially feel tight because of the adhesive bandage, but it will loosen up. You do not have to restrict your head or neck motion.

## How Long will I Have this Line in Place?

Only your physician can let you know how long your therapy will last. When you no longer need the therapy, the line can be removed.

## If You Have Any Questions or Concerns

Your central line is an important part of your care and we encourage you to call us if you have questions or concerns. Your physician can be reached by calling your clinic, Monday – Friday, 8a.m. – 5p.m.. If you are having symptoms after hours, call **716-845-2300** and our Call Center will assist you.

My clinic number: \_\_\_\_\_