

CLABSI

Central Line-Associated Bloodstream Infections

The importance of preventing CLABSI

Central line-associated bloodstream infections (CLABSI) are serious infections that occur when germs (usually bacteria or viruses) enter the bloodstream through the central line. Signs of a CLABSI include fever, red skin and soreness around the central line. Hospital protocols are followed when inserting the line to make sure the line remains sterile to prevent a CLABSI. The healthcare team use specific infection control practices each time they check the line or change the dressing.

What we are doing

In Alberta, optimal safety practices to prevent conditions like CLABSI are part of routine care. We are working with patients and their families to be part of the CLABSI prevention effort. Additionally, staff will begin to track how successful we are in consistently following the best safety practices.

Best practices for central line insertions include:

- Hand hygiene
- Chlorhexidine gluconate (CHG) surgical scrub
- No iodine ointment
- Prepackaged or filled insertion cart, tray or box
- Insertion checklist with staff to stop non-emergent procedure
- Full sterile barrier for providers and patients
- Insertion training for all providers

Best practices for central line maintenance include:

- Daily communication with care team about the line necessity, function and use
- Regular monitoring of dressing to ensure clean/dry
- Standard access procedures
- Standardized dressing, cap and tubing change procedures/timing

CLABSI resources

- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](https://www.cdc.gov/)

Results

We are in the process of measuring our baseline rate of CLABSI. Once we have collected and analyzed sufficient baseline data, we will know more about where improvements can be made. Tracking rates is on a monthly basis.

Our current goal is 100% compliance to reach our goal of zero harm.

▶ To learn more, visit ahs.ca/SafestTogether

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