

# Patient Information Leaflet

## **Peripheral Intravenous (IV) Cannula**

## **What is intravenous cannula?**

A cannula is a small hollow flexible plastic tube, which is inserted into a vein using the tip of a fine safety needle. This is usually inserted into the back of your hand or your arm.



## **Bruising**

Bruising around the cannulation site can occur in some individuals. After the cannula has been removed, please apply firm compression (to the cannulation site) for at least 10 minutes and avoid carrying heavy things for next 2 hours.

A bruise usually appears when small blood vessels located just under the skin are accidentally damaged leading to bleeding underneath the skin. A bruise may also form if there is not enough pressure applied after the needle is removed.

A bruise after IV cannulation is generally harmless and does not require treatment but can look awful and some may feel uncomfortable.

Do inform our staff if you tend to bruise easily or are taking any anticoagulants and antiplatelet drugs (e.g. heparin, warfarin, aspirin). You may need to apply pressure for longer than usual (>15 minutes) after the cannula has been removed.

## **Colour of bruising**

The blue-black discoloration changes to green, then yellow and eventually fades and disappears. A bruise can sometimes be painful due to swelling.

## **How long will the bruise last?**

1-2 days for minor bruises, If the bruise is large, 1-2 weeks. It is normal for bruises to spread out before fading.



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