

catheter care

A catheter is a soft, thin tube that a surgeon inserts into a large vein, often in the chest. Catheters allow medicine, such as chemotherapy, to be delivered directly into the blood stream intravenously.

TYPES OF CATHETERS

There are a few different types of catheters, but most can be classified into two main categories: external and subcutaneous.

Out of the skin (external): One end of a thin, flexible plastic tube is inserted into a large vein. The other end of the tube comes out of the skin. These are sometimes called a PICC line (percutaneously inserted central catheter). Medications are injected into this end of the tube.

Under the skin (subcutaneous): A line that is implanted entirely under the skin is usually referred to as a port-a-cath or a medi-port. These lines are usually placed in the chest, but may sometimes be placed in the arm. If you have this type of catheter, it may be connected to a small, round disc made of plastic or metal, called a port, which is also placed under your skin. Your nurse can insert a needle into your port to give you chemotherapy. This needle is often left in place for chemotherapy treatments that last for more than one day.

CARING FOR YOUR CATHETER OR PORT

Your doctor or nurse will provide detailed instructions on how to care for your central venous access device. To lower the chance of developing an infection:

- Follow your nurse or doctor's instructions
- Keep the device clean and dry and wash your hands before touching or caring for your device
- Contact your doctor or nurse immediately if you notice any of the following near your device because any of these could be a sign of an infection:
 - Redness
 - Swelling
 - Soreness
 - Any drainage (including pus)



If you have any questions please contact or
make an appointment with our dietitian at

505-727-3040.

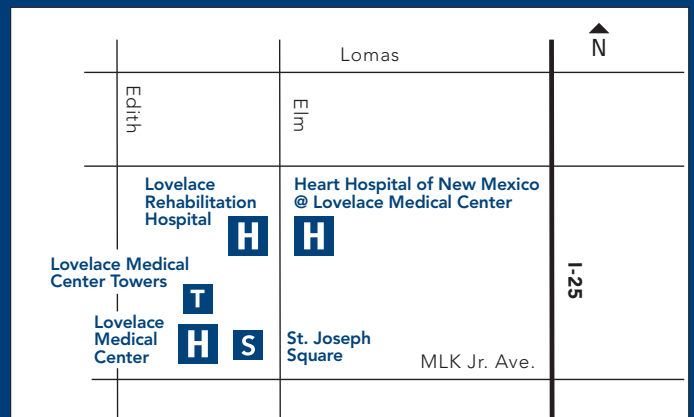




About Us

With over 37 years of experience, Hematology Oncology Associates is committed to providing the best cancer care possible for their patients. Hematology Oncology Associates is a Quality Oncology Practice Initiatives (QOPI) certified site that demonstrates rigorous standards for quality cancer care and safety measures established by the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) and the Oncology Nursing Society (ONS).

We gladly accept most major insurance plans, including Blue Cross and Blue Shield, Molina Healthcare, TRICARE, UnitedHealthcare Community Plan, United Retiree Health Care Authority, Medicaid, Medicare, and many others.



CONTACT US

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We are located in the St. Joseph Square building on Lovelace Medical Center's campus.