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| **Situation** | Uncapped lumen/exposed hub of central catheter |
| **Background** | Recently Fairview Home Infusion has had several occurrences where the end of a central line was exposed. |
| **Assessment** | FHI does not have any current guidance for these occurrences and we have been seeing multiple different practices. There currently are no studies or other evidence available on this topic. |
| **Recommendation** | **FHI Practice:**   1. Clean external hub with alcohol, and allow it to dry 2. Connect new needless connector    * If there is only one needleless connector in the home, the nurse would draw blood from the new needless connect or not replace. 3. Clean needleless connector with alcohol wipe, and allow to dry 4. Connect sterile 10 mL syringe and aspirate 4-5 mL for adults, or 3-4 mL for pediatric. Discard into sharps. 5. Clean needleless connector with alcohol wipe, and allow to dry 6. Flush with 20 ml 0.9% sodium chloride 7. Flush with heparin, if applicable 8. Contact provider for further direction:    * Continue infusion?    * Blood cultures?    * Removal (this should be considered as the last resort. Risk versus benefits should be assesses) 9. Teach patient/caregiver signs and symptoms of a bloodstream infection and importance of keeping needleless connector on.  * Pain * Redness * Drainage or swelling where your catheter line enters your body * Pain or tenderness along the path of the catheter * Temperature of 100.4 F or higher * Chills * Nausea or vomiting * Feeling tired or weak * Headache * New cough * Wheezing * Shortness of breath * Heartbeat is racing or doesn’t seem normal * Muscle stiffness or trouble moving  1. If a nurse is not available, instruct patient and/or caregiver on steps above    * A nurse visit should be conducted to ensure proper procedure was complete 2. Send email to [Dept-pharm-fhi-quality@fairview.org](mailto:Dept-pharm-fhi-quality@fairview.org) 3. Document exposure in your EMR |