

### What is a midline?

A midline catheter is a peripheral intravenous (IV) line. It is a thin, hollow, flexible tube (catheter) that is inserted in a large vein in the arm, where there is a higher volume of blood flow which reduces the potential damage to your vein. The end of the midline catheter sits just below the level of the axilla.

### What are the benefits of midlines?

Midline catheters have several advantages over short peripheral IV lines. Midlines inserted at GBGH can stay in place for up to 28 days with proper care and maintenance. There are fewer complications, such as vein irritation, because the midline catheter sits in a larger vein. Having a midline can allow for faster discharge from hospital as well as treatment in the community. Midlines are used:

- If you need to have IV medication or fluids for more than 2 weeks
- When medications need to be given through an IV and the veins in your arm are very hard to find
- To give you blood

### Use, Care and Maintenance of your midline:

- Only Healthcare Providers trained in the correct use, care and maintenance of your midline should access it. Improper use of a midline can lead to several complications including infection, blood clots, nerve damage or air embolism.
- Avoid blood pressure checks and repetitive movements or heavy lifting greater than 15-20 lbs with your arm where your midline is present.
- Keep your midline dry and clean. Cover it when you shower.
- Your midline dressing and securement device should be changed every 7 days and as needed.
- Community Care Access Centre (CCAC) – 1-888-721-2222

**For any complications, please go to the closest emergency department.**