

Infection and central lines

While your child has a central line in their body, it is very important to check for infection regularly. Infection can enter the body through the central line. Even if you take care of your child's central line, infections can still happen.

Look for signs of an infection:

- **Fever (temperature $\geq 38^{\circ}\text{C}$ oral or armpit)**
- Sore ear, throat, neck or shoulder on the side where the central line is
- Swelling in the hand, arm, neck or face on the side where the central line is
- The catheter exit site is red, swollen, hot or painful
- The catheter exit site is draining or oozing pus
- There is redness or itching of the skin under the dressing
- Your child reports burning or pain at the catheter exit site
- Your child appears unwell (pain, irritability, chills, sweating, loss of appetite, drowsiness, etc.)

Your child may develop a fever for many reasons. When your child has a central line, your health-care team must ensure that the central line is not the cause. On the day you become aware of the fever, a health-care professional must assess your child and take blood samples.

Contact the PIVOT Nurse, Vascular Access Team or your doctor as soon as you notice a problem. After hours, go to the emergency room.

If your child has a fever while they have a central line they will need to have a blood culture drawn from each lumen of the central line as soon as possible.

