

What is a Central Line-Associated Bloodstream Infections (CLABSI)?

A central line is a catheter (tube) that is placed into a large vein and is used for medication administration, fluid administration, and sometimes used to draw blood. These catheters are typically inserted in the neck, chest, or arm. A bloodstream infection can happen when bacteria travel down the catheter and enter the blood or circulatory system.

What are we doing at Sharon Regional Medical Center to reduce central line-associated bloodstream infections? To prevent central line associated bloodstream infections, our doctors, nurses, and healthcare teams are:

- Choosing a vein where the catheter can be safely inserted and the risk for infection is lower
- Performing hand hygiene by cleaning their hands with soap and water or an alcohol-based hand rub before inserting the catheter
- Wearing masks, caps, sterile gowns, and sterile gloves when inserting the catheter to keep it sterile
- Cleaning the patient's skin with an antiseptic cleanser before inserting the catheter
- Using a checklist to ensure critical steps are not missed during catheter insertion, and allowing members of the care team to stop the procedure if they notice such

After the catheter is inserted, our teams are:

- Performing hand hygiene, wearing gloves, and cleaning the catheter opening with an antiseptic solution before using the catheter
- Deciding every day whether you, the patient, continue to need the catheter and remove it as soon as possible if not needed

