



Research for better consumer emergency care

Information for consumers

Best Practice for Intravenous (IV) Cannula Use

Have you ever had an intravenous (IV) cannula or drip?

Did you know that up to half of IV cannulas are not used? This matters because they hurt to put in, take clinicians away from other tasks, create waste, and cost.

Sometimes IV cannulas can cause serious infections.

We are aiming to reduce the number of IV cannula insertions and to improve care and safety.

Routine healthcare information will be collected from the medical records of adults presenting to Emergency Departments. No personal identifiable information will be collected.

What are we planning to do?

Reduce pain to patients, reduce waste and environmental impact, reduce unnecessary spending in hospitals and healthcare systems and drive change for better care around Australia.

What can you do to help?

- Ask your nurse or doctor why you are getting an IV cannula.
- Ask if there is an alternative. You can ask, "Can I have oral medications instead?"
- Tell your nurse or doctor if you have any concerns with your cannula, especially if it hurts.



What is an IV cannula?

Intravenous cannulas ('drips' or 'bungs') are plastic tubes put into patients' veins that might be needed to give medicines, fluids or for procedures

Find out more



Cannula
Clinical Care
Standard for
consumers