



# Speak Up about IVs

*Your child's health and safety are important to us. You can make a difference in your child's care by asking questions and being actively involved.*

## **What is an intravenous line (IV)?**

An intravenous line (IV) is a thin, flexible tube (like a very thin straw) that is inserted into your child's vein to give them fluids and medicines. IVs can also be used to draw blood samples for lab tests. The Child Life team can help your child cope with the IV placement.

## **What are we doing to keep your child's IV safe?**

When your child has an IV, their care team will check the IV site regularly, and sometimes more often when medicines are being given, during the day and overnight to make sure it is working properly. When checking the IV site, your child's care providers will:

- *Touch* to check for swelling, pain, or changes in temperature on your child's skin,
- *Look* for leaking, redness, or bruising around the IV site, and
- *Compare* to other areas on your child's skin.

## **What can you do to help keep your child's IV safe?**

You can help make sure the IV is secure and safe by checking it often. The IV site should always be soft, warm, and dry. Let your child's care providers know if the IV site has:

- Pain
- Swelling
- Tingling
- Leaking
- Redness
- Bruising

**Let your child's care providers know if you have any questions or concerns about your child's IV.**