

# Catheter-Related Bloodstream Infection (CRBSI)



## About CRBSI

A CRBSI is an **infection** that starts **inside** a **catheter**. The infection can spread into the **bloodstream** and be very serious.

Germs that can cause CRBSI include **bacteria** and **fungi**.



## CRBSI Risk

Catheters have a **higher risk** of bloodstream infection compared to fistulas and grafts.

**~70%** of dialysis-related bloodstream infections happen in people with a catheter.

**Risk factors** for CRBSI can include longer catheter use, improper care of the catheter, and recent surgery or hospitalization.



## Complications

- Nerve injury
- Dangerous blood clot
- Irregular heartbeat (arrhythmia)
- Leaky blood vessels
- Low blood pressure (hypotension)
- Infection of the heart's inner lining (endocarditis)
- **Sepsis** (a severe response to an infection, which can lead to organ failure and hospitalization)

Seek medical attention for any infection, with urgent follow-up if the infection persists or worsens.



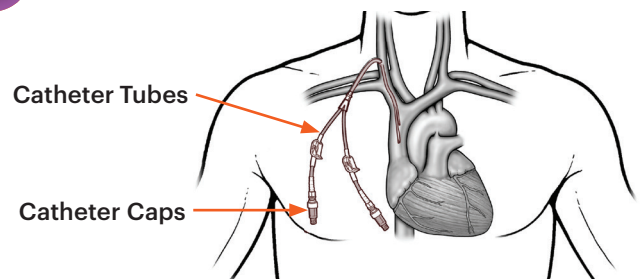
## Prevention

Take care of yourself and your catheter.

- Take care of your **overall health** and avoid other infections.
- Wash your **hands** (especially before and after dialysis).
- Keep your catheter access and dressing **clean**.
- **Avoid** exposing your catheter access to **water**.
- Make sure **others** handling your catheter wear a mask and gloves.



## Antimicrobial Caps and Locks



Catheter **caps** and **locks** can be treated with an antibiotic or an antimicrobial, and heparin (for blood clots).

**Antibiotics** (bacteria) include vancomycin, cefazolin or ciprofloxacin. **Antimicrobials** (bacteria and other germs) include taurolidine, ethanol or citrate.

Caps are placed at the tip of the catheter. Locks use a liquid inside the catheter tube. One example is a catheter antimicrobial lock solution that has heparin and taurolidine. It's the only one approved by the US FDA. You can discuss these and other prevention steps with your healthcare team.

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