

Changing Your Child's Bandage

Central IV line care for patients with epidermolysis bullosa (EB)

When do I change the bandage?

- **If there is no drainage:** Change the bandage every 7 days, unless the doctor asks you to change it more often.
- **If there is drainage:** Ask your child's doctor how often to change the bandage. Each time you change the bandage, clean the skin around the tube (exit site) and the tube itself.

You will need:

- Household cleaner, alcohol or bleach wipes
- Liquid soap
- ChloroPrep antiseptic
- BioPatch disc
- Pick one bandage from these options:
 - IV Clear (6x7 or 10x12 cm.)
 - Mepilex Border (3x3 or 4x4 in.)—do **not** cut
 - Mepilex Border Lite (3x3 or 4x4 in.)—do **not** cut
- Mepitac tape or a bandage
- Mepilex Lite or another type of foam bandage
- Roll of gauze or EB torso bandage of your choice

Step 1: Prepare work area

1. Clean the table top with your choice of cleaner or wipes. Let air dry.
2. Wash your hands for 30 seconds with liquid soap.
3. Place supplies on the clean table.
4. Peel open packages for bandage, Biopatch and Chloraprep. (Do **not** touch the sponge.) Set aside.
5. Carefully remove the old bandage. Check for signs of infection (redness, swelling, warmth, drainage, bad smell, fever).

Step 2: Clean the skin and tube

1. Wash your hands.
2. Hold the Chloraprep applicator with the sponge pointing down and facing the skin. Pinch the wings to release cleaner into the sponge.
3. Dab the sponge on the skin in a 2-inch circle around the tube for at least 15 seconds.
4. Scrub the tube near where it enters the skin (under the bandage) for at least 15 seconds. **Always scrub away from the insertion site.** You may clean all the way to the lumens, if needed, then stop.
5. Let the skin dry fully. Then, put a BioPatch disc around the line where it goes into the skin (slit facing down, print facing out).

Step 3: Place bandage over the insertion site

1. Center the bandage over the BioPatch disc and stick it to the skin and tubing.
2. Secure the bottom of the bandage with Mepitac tape or a bandage.
3. Place a piece of Mepilex Lite or another type of foam bandage under the tubing. This will protect the skin from the clamps on the IV line.
4. If you wish, you may wrap your child's chest using a roll of gauze or your choice of EB torso dressing. This will help keep the dressing in place.

When to call the doctor

Call your health care team if you have:

- New fluid drainage around the central line or from the insertion site
- Redness, swelling or skin feels warm
- Bad smell
- Temperature of 100.5°F (38.0°C) or above