

## PORT — HOME CARE

### HOW DO I CARE FOR THE PORT?

- Keep the port site dry until after the appointment to have the site checked in our clinic 7–10 days after the placement. You can use clear plastic wrap and tape to cover the site for showering. This will prevent infection until the port is healed.
- Keep a dressing over the port site for the first 3 days. After that, the dressing should be removed. Do not do anything special to the site except keep it open to air and dry.
- You should have little pain. At home, over-the-counter medicines that you take for aches and pains can be used if you have discomfort at the port site.
- Women should wear a bra during the day.
- Check the port site for signs of infection:
  - » Extreme redness
  - » Pus drainage
  - » Extreme pain/tenderness
  - » Extreme warmth at the site
- Once the port has healed and is not being used regularly it will need to be flushed so that it does not clot off. Please check with your Medical Oncologist to determine the frequency in your case. This flushing should be arranged with the clinic that used your port for treatments or blood draws.

### WHEN SHOULD I CALL THE CLINIC?

Please call if you have:

- Questions about the care of the port.
- Any of the above signs of infection.
- Excessive bleeding/swelling.
- Fever above 101° F for 2 separate readings taken 4 hours apart.