What Is a Peripheral IV?
A peripheral IV is a very thin, flexible tube inserted into a vein in the arm or hand. The tube may also be called a catheter. The peripheral IV allows fluids, medicine, chemotherapy, or blood transfusions to flow directly into your bloodstream.

The IV is secured with a clear bandage, stretchy bandage, and mesh net until you return to the clinic tomorrow for your treatment.

How Should I Care for the IV?
- Leave the bandage and mesh net on. If the bandage feels too tight, you can unwrap the tan-colored stretchy bandage and rewrap it more loosely.
- Keep the bandage and mesh net dry. When you shower, cover the bandage and net with plastic wrap and tape the ends securely to your skin. Don’t swim or bathe.

How Do I Prevent Infection?
Keep the dressing dry. If you need to rewrap the bandage, wash your hands before doing so.

What Should I Do if There Is Bleeding from the Site or if the IV Falls Out?
Though rare, movement may cause the IV to fall out. This may cause the site to bleed. Don’t panic—applying pressure will stop the bleeding quickly. Do this by pressing down tightly for 5 minutes, and then cover with an adhesive bandage.

Movement may cause the tubing or cap to separate from the catheter. If this happens, there may be some bleeding from the end of the tubing or catheter. Don’t panic—remove the net, stretchy bandage, and clear bandage, and pull the IV straight out of your arm. Put pressure on the site tightly for 5 minutes and then apply an adhesive bandage. Nurses will start another IV when you come back tomorrow. Bring the IV with you to Infusion.

If you have any questions, please call the Infusion Room at 801-587-4485 and ask to speak to a nurse. After hours, call 801-587-7000 and ask for the oncologist on call.