

University Health Care Center

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Information for You from Your Health Care Team

Central Line

Sometimes when people are ill they need tubes placed in the body so that they can receive medicines, fluids, or nutrients directly into the blood stream. A central line is a tube that is placed under the skin and goes directly into a large vein. It is usually placed in the neck, chest or groin.

A central line is a simple, pain-free way for doctors and nurses to draw blood needed for tests. A central line is also used for medicines, fluids, and nutrients that are too irritating to smaller veins located in the arm.

Chemotherapy is an example of a medicine that usually needs to be given by a central line.