I need a Central Line

A children’s guide to having a Central Line
If your child needs to have a central line (also known as a Hickman Line™, Broviac Line™ or wiggly), this booklet has been designed to help.

This publication is intended to supplement the advice given by your child’s medical team.

The booklet was written and edited by Dr Jennifer Kelly and illustrated by Angus Jorgen Olsen. Our thanks go to Angus for his wonderful illustrations.

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The Grace Kelly Childhood Cancer Trust has produced a number of publications including one for parents, “Lines, Ports and Tubes,” which may be useful alongside this book. Please ask a member of your child’s care team for a copy or they can be downloaded and ordered free of charge on our website.

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Soon, I am getting a central line.
I will have a little sleep and when I wake up it will be all done.
If I feel sore, I can have some medicine to help it feel better.
My line goes inside my chest and sits in a place near my heart.
My doctor sometimes calls it my Hickman line, but I call it my wiggly as it is soft and bendy. If I want, I can give my wiggly a name.
My line can be used to test my blood and to give me my medicine so I don’t need as many needles.
My nurses will help me look after my line. Sometimes I need my dressing changed. This is not always fun but my new one is nice and clean.
When I have a bath I keep my line dry by taping it up high.
I have a central line. My line is there to help make me better. I can still play and have fun.
The Grace Kelly Childhood Cancer Trust is a UK based children’s cancer charity that concentrates on funding research and providing support for children with cancer. We also work to provide education on the signs and symptoms of childhood cancer and how it may present.

For more information on our work and the publications we have produced, please see our website.

www.gkcct.org

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