What are signs and symptoms of CLABSI?
The healthcare team will look for the following signs and symptoms of a central line infection during your hospital stay:

- Fever of 100.4°F (38°C) or higher
- Chills
- Signs of infection where your central line enters your skin, such as pain, redness, drainage, burning or stinging

How is CLABSI treated?
Treatment depends on the type of central line, how severe the infection is and your overall health. Antibiotics are usually ordered by your doctor to fight the infection. The central line may also need to be removed.

Your nurse can contact the Infection Prevention department.

References: cdc.gov/HAI/bsi/CLABSI-resources.html
What is a Central Line-Associated Bloodstream Infection (CLABSI)?

A central line-associated bloodstream infection (CLABSI) is a serious infection that happens when germs (usually bacteria or viruses) enter your blood through your central line. These germs may come from your own skin or other sources.

What is a central line and why would I need one?

You may need a central line as a part of your medical treatment for intravenous (IV) medications, nutrition or dialysis therapy. A central line is different from a standard IV because a central line enters into a major vein in your body that is close to your heart. A central line can remain in place for a longer period of time than a standard IV.

What can you and your healthcare team do to prevent a CLABSI?

To prevent a CLABSI, your healthcare team follows these practices while you are in the hospital:

- **Avoid drawing blood from the line.** A central line enters directly into your bloodstream and each time the line is used, there is risk of contamination. Lab specimens are not drawn from central lines unless absolutely necessary.
- **Monitor for infection.** Your healthcare team will check your central line site every day for signs and symptoms of infection.
- **Ask if you still need the central line.** Your healthcare team will remove your central line when it is no longer needed.
- **Use good hand hygiene.** Anyone touching the central line should first clean their hands with either soap and water or an alcohol-based hand sanitizer and wear gloves.
- **Avoid touching the line.** Even when your hands are clean, do not touch the catheter or dressing.

- **Change the central line dressing.** The dressing that covers your central line should be changed at least once a week and whenever the dressing is loose or there is visible drainage.
- **Wear a mask.** Both you and your healthcare team should wear a mask while your central line dressing is changed.
- **Keep the line dry.** If the dressing gets wet, tell your doctor or nurse right away.

What conditions increase the risk of a CLABSI?

Anyone who has a central line is at risk for infection. The risk of infection may be higher if you:

- Are in the hospital
- Have a weakened immune system or serious illness
- Are receiving chemotherapy
- Have the central line for an extended period of time