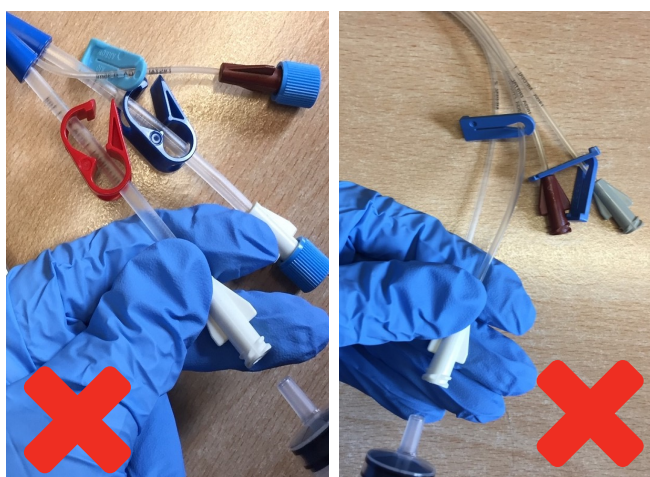


# Learning Alerts

I Learning from experience is essential. This Patient Safety Notice has been developed following a serious incident & inquest of a case involving sampling from a central line. A patient, under renal physicians, required blood cultures from their central venous line (normally used for haemodialysis). Due to unfamiliarity with the correct procedure the line was not clamped prior to use. Air therefore entered the port causing an air embolus and subsequently cardiac arrest.

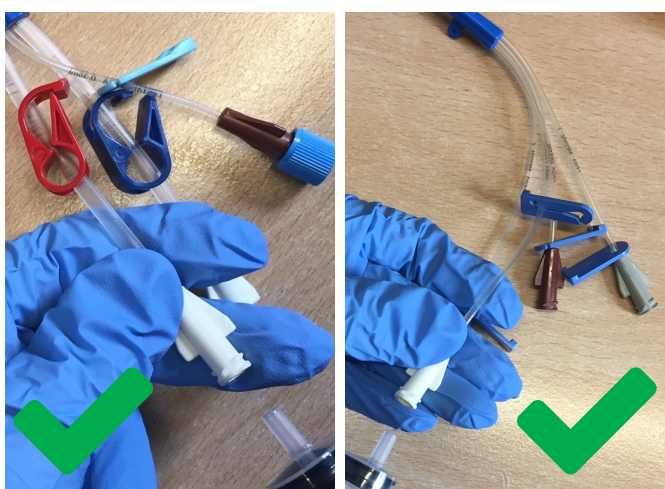
## Patient Safety Notice Central Venous Lines



### Don't:

- Don't use a central line if you are not familiar with them
- Don't leave central lines unclamped and uncapped at the same time/ when not in use.

**Unclamped, uncapped and  
no syringe applied**



### Do:

- Contact outreach/CCS for guidance/ support regarding sampling from all types of central lines
- Ensure responsibility is delegated appropriately
- Ensure you are trained and competent to carry out central line related tasks
- Make sure all staff are aware of this safety notice

**Line clamped / clamp in closed position  
while uncapped**

For the attention of:	Medical & Nursing staff
Status:	Mandatory
Issued by:	Medical Director
In response to:	SWB Serious Incident & Coroners Inquest
Issue date:	June 2021
Review date:	June 2022
Further information contact point:	Director of Medical Education or Critical Care Outreach