

A Positive Portrait



Meet Casey. In December of 2000, this little girl, at 5 months old, was hospitalized with a condition which required six weeks of antibiotics. Casey underwent surgery to place a central line into her, which would be the pathway for receiving these vital medications. Sadly, after 13 days, the line failed and so a second surgery was needed to replace the line.

You can imagine that Casey's parents, doctors, and nurses, were very concerned about keeping this new line open and working. The outcome of this single issue was so important, that in May of 2001, Casey's parents

decided to write a letter to the Material Manager of the Rehabilitation Center, urging that the system used for Casey would be the one available to all patients. Thus, we would like to share the following two paragraphs from Casey's grateful parents.

"Firstly, the cap initially placed on Casey's line was the Inter-Link needleless system. Normally the nurses provide positive pressure by the technique they use to flush the central line, which usually works, however, for some reason, in this case, it did not. Due to the blood back flow that was occurring and the risk of blockage, the nurses switched to the CLC2000 needleless system. This automatically provided positive pressure and prevented back flow, considerably decreasing the risk of the line plugging. The CLC2000 needleless cap was changed every six days, as opposed to every three days, hence the line was opened less allowing a closed system; decreasing the risk of infection. Clearly, you will agree that the CLC2000 needleless system was all around more beneficial as the lines could be flushed with saline rather than heparin.

The benefits the CLC2000 needleless system provided us, as a family, were infinite. For example, I stayed in the hospital with Casey through the duration of her illness, making it (a) difficult time for the entire family. I had a husband as well as a four-year-old at home and being absent was extremely stressful, especially over the holiday season. Once the CLC2000 needleless system was implemented, we were able to enjoy day passes which enabled us to reconnect as a family unit. The nurses were able to use this system with increased confidence, as this system was so user friendly."



We at ICU Medical would like to thank this family for taking the time to write about their experience, and we certainly love the picture of a healthy, beautiful Casey!