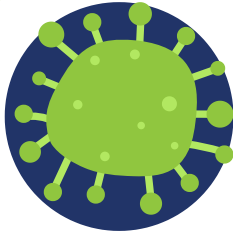


# CENTRAL LINE-ASSOCIATED BLOODSTREAM INFECTIONS



Central line-associated bloodstream infections (CLABSI) are healthcare-associated infections that occur in 250-500,000 U.S. patients annually



## WHAT IS A CENTRAL LINE?

- A central line is different from a regular IV in that it accesses a major vein close to the patient's heart
- Central lines are typically placed in the neck, chest, or groin
- Central lines can remain in place for weeks or months at a time
- This infection occurs when germs from an external source enter the patient's bloodstream

## CLABSI SYMPTOMS

- Redness
- Pain
- Swelling at the site
- Pain or tenderness along the path of the central line
- Drainage from skin
- Sudden fever or chills

## PREVENT A CLABSI

- Research the hospital to learn about its CLABSI ratings
- Ask if the central line is necessary, and understand the need for it and how long it will be in place
- Pay attention to the bandage and the area around it
  - If the area is wet or dirty, let a healthcare provider know



CLABSIs HAVE A  
**10 - 30%**  
MORTALITY RATE

# CHECKLIST: SYMPTOMS & PREVENTION

CLABSI Symptoms	✓
Redness	
Pain	
Pain or tenderness along the path of the central line	
Drainage from skin	
Sudden fever or chills	

Prevention	✓
Research the hospital to learn about its CLABSI ratings	
Ask a healthcare provider if the central line is necessary and understand the need for it	
Ask a healthcare provider how long the central line will be in for	
Monitor the area around the central line frequently	
If the area around the bandage is wet or dirty, notify a healthcare provider immediately	

Please visit [www.hospitalsafetygrade.org](http://www.hospitalsafetygrade.org) for more information about infection in the blood.