



Advanced Heart Failure Program

****If you are require home care services, please give this information to your nurse.****

[Home Care Nursing Resources](#)

VAD Clinic Office Hours Monday-Friday 8:00-4:30

Phone #: 585-273-3760 or 800-892-4964

Driveline Dressing Changes:

It is the preference of the LVAD team that the patient's trained caregiver perform the patient's driveline dressing. In the absence of a trained caregiver, patients may also perform their own dressing. In the rare instance when the homecare nurse needs to step in and do the driveline dressing please:

- ♥ Call the VAD clinic office to discuss the care of the driveline with the VAD APP **before** performing the dressing
- ♥ Review the driveline dressing change checklist (section 4 in the patient's discharge binder)
- ♥ Watch the driveline dressing video



Driveline dressing change video

Please keep in mind for dressing changes:

- Driveline dressing changes ALWAYS require using sterile technique. In rare instances, clean technique is used. Please check with the VAD APP if clarification is needed.
- Protect the driveline from being pulled, kinked, or twisted.
- Ensure the driveline is secure with an anchor.
- Never use scissors to remove the old driveline dressing.

Blood Pressure Measurements:

- Doppler is standard unless the patient has a bounding radial pulse.
- If the patient has a strong radial pulse, you can use an automatic cuff.



How to obtain a Doppler BP

Patient's Home Routine

- Nutrition- low sodium diet, moderate to low Vitamin K foods
- Encourage mobility
- Daily weight
- Self-test controller every morning (hold battery button down for 5 seconds)

- Record VAD numbers daily (Section 3 in the discharge binder)

If a patient requires assistance putting on their holster vest, please watch this video:



Holster vest video

When to call the Clinic:

- Resting HR < 50 bpm or > 120 bpm
- Sustained resting MAP < 60 or > 95
- Any VAD alarms
- Lab work- all anti-coagulation dosing is managed by the UR VAD team, not the patient's primary doctor.

For more information, please visit our program's website:

www.vadresources.urmc.edu