PORT MAINTENANCE

Define Port, what it is and what it is indicated for:

- A port is used by specially trained nurses to administer medications and to draw labs.
- Each time the port is used, it will be accessed using sterile technique.
- A special non-coring needle is used and the port will be flushed with saline and heparin after each use.
- After your port has been accessed a Band-Aid or gauze will be applied. You may remove the Band-Aid/bandage in 24 hours. Do not submerge in water for 24 hours (no tubs, hot tubs, pools, or swimming). You may shower.
- When you are not receiving treatment the port must be flushed every 4-6 weeks and this can be scheduled in the office.
- Your MD/NP/PA may ask that you take low dose ASA or Coumadin while you have a port.

Port complication:

- Your port can develop a fibrin sheath that prevents blood being drawn but will continue to allow administration of medications.
- If you notice pain or burning during a port flush treatment, report this to your nurse immediately.
- If you experience signs of infection: pain, redness, warmth to touch, swelling, or fever >100.5 at your port site call the office.
- If you notice pain at your port site radiating into your arm or into your neck, call the office.