



Standard Operating Procedures



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Name of Policy:	Peripheral Intravenous Catheters, care and maintenance	Departments:	ALL
Category & No.:	PAT 18.3	Effective by:	May 30, 2024
Version No.:	1.3	Revision History:	Version 3 dated 5/30/2024 includes updated reference

Background Information:

- Full IV catheter (IVC) care protocol should be performed on all inpatients daily during morning assessments.
- If there is concern about performing catheter care (i.e., patient aggression/disposition) please ask the attending clinician if it should be performed/delayed.
- All IVC should be assessed every 2-4 hours for swelling, pain, or leakage (see below).
- Examination gloves should be worn when examining every patient, but particularly when handling indwelling devices such as IVC.
- Please wash/Purell hands prior to the procedure.

Procedure:

Items Required:

- Examination gloves
- 2% chlorhexidine scrub
- Saline flush
- Isopropyl Alcohol
- Clean gauze
- Medical tape
- New t-set

Protocol for regular management (every 2-4 hours):

- Examine the dressing; it should be clean, dry, and firmly adhered to the patient.
- Examine the limb/peri-catheter site for swelling, pain, or erythema.
- Examine catheter patency: does it flush well? Is it painful when flushing? Does it “bleed back”?

Every 24 hours:

- Assess the catheter as stated above.
- Remove bandage material and tape to assess the catheter insertion site for swelling, redness, discharge, pain, or phlebitis (“ropiness,” to the vessel).
- Clean the insertion site with dilute chlorhexidine, rinse with sterile saline, and allow to air dry, or dry with sterile gauze.
- Re-tape and bandage the site.

- IV catheters are to be replaced on an as needed basis (infection, inflammation, not patent, phlebitis).

Follow link to video of IV catheter care: [IVCathCare.3GP](#)

References:

O'Grady, Naomi P., et al. "Guidelines for the Prevention of Intravascular Catheter-related Infections." *National Institutes of Health*, www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3106269.

Reviewed Cassandra Janson, DVM, DACVECC 10/2018 // April 2024 SBL