

PROCEDURE FOR: Arterial Blood Pressure Monitoring

- POLICY:
1. Arterial lines can only be monitored in the following units (ICU, L&D, Cardiac Step-Down Unit, PACU).
 2. Monitoring alarms must be on at all times.
 3. Prior to insertion, physician will perform Allen's test.
 4. Fluid bag and tubing will be changed every 3 days.

- EQUIPMENT:
- H/P digital pressure monitor/module
 - Arterial pressure monitoring kit
 - IV flush system consisting of:
 - 500cc NS, unless otherwise ordered
 - Pressure infuser bags
 - Arrow cath or jelco
 - Sterile gloves
 - Sterile towels
 - Betadine solution
 - Silk sutures (3-0 and 4-0)
 - St needle and or needle holder
 - Dressing kit
 - Level
 - Optional:
 - 1% Lidocaine solution
 - Cutdown tray
 - Arm board

PROCEDURE:

- | <u>ACTION</u> | <u>POINTS OF EMPHASIS</u> |
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| 1. Explain procedure to patient. | |
| 2. Assemble normal saline solution, tubing and flush system. | 2. Refer to diagram for set up. Be sure to change stopcock caps to closed caps to avoid air entering the system. |
| 3. Calibrate monitor and balance transducer as per procedure. | 3. See calibration procedure in HP Manual for specific monitor used. |
| 4. To set zero level, place patient supine. Next, using level, align transducer's "zero level" to patient's right atrium. | 4. This aligns with transducer for accurate blood pressure readings. |
| 5. MD will insert arterial catheter and secure it with sutures. RN will apply sterile dressing and leave loop of tubing visible. | 5. RN will label, time, date dsq. And bag. The loop ensures visibility for blood return and system integrity. |

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ACTION

POINTS OF EMPHASIS

6. Use arm board to immobilize area if necessary.
7. Refer to hemodynamic monitoring protocol for arterial blood pressure monitoring care.

APPROVAL: ICU Standards Committee
Nursing Standards Committee
Cardiac Step-Down Standards Committee

EFFECTIVE DATE: 1/86

REVISION DATES: 2/87, 1/88, 2/90, 1/93, 11/93, 1/95, 3/96, 8/97, 8/99, 10/03

REVIEWED DATES: 1/09