

PROCEDURE FOR: IV Catheter Removal: Perioperative Medical Assistant Role in

- POLICY:
1. The *Lippencott Manual of Nursing Practice* procedure will be followed for any removal of IV catheters.
 2. Only those Medical Assistants who have been deemed competent by an RN to follow the steps outlined in *Lippencott* will be allowed to remove IV catheters.
 3. Medical Assistants will be allowed to remove IV catheters only for Phase 2 recovery patients who are expected to be discharged home or to another institution.
 4. Medical Assistants will only be allowed to remove IV catheters that have no complications at the infusion site, as assessed by an RN and with 0 ratings on both the phlebitis and infiltration scales.
 - a. Phlebitis Scale
0 = No symptoms
1+ = Erythema at access site with or without pain
2+ = Pain at access site with erythema and/or edema
3+ = Pain at access site with erythema and/or streak formation, palpable venous cord
4+ = Pain at access site with erythema and/or edema, streak formation, palpable venous cord > 1 inch length, purulent drainage
 - b. Infiltration Scale
0 = No symptoms
1 = Skin blanched, edema < 1 inch in any direction, cool to touch, with or without pain
2 = Skin blanched, edema 1 to 6 inches in any direction, cool to touch, with or without pain
3 = Skin blanched, translucent; gross edema > 6 inches in any direction; cool to touch; mild to moderate pain; possible numbness
4 = Skin blanched, translucent; skin tight, leaking; skin discolored, bruised, swollen; gross edema > 6 inches in any direction; deep pitting tissue edema; circulatory impairment; moderate to severe pain; infiltration of any amount of blood product, irritant or vesicant.

EQUIPMENT: Lippencott Manual of Nursing Practice
small gauze sponge
Band-Aids
Tape
gloves

APPROVAL: Nursing Standards Committee

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EFFECTIVE DATE: 7/98

REVISION DATE(S): 5/00, 6/03, 2/08, 11/08