

PROTOCOL FOR: IV Catheters: Problem Insertion

POLICY:

1. Only one IV catheter shall be used per attempted insertion; catheters should not be re-advanced during attempts at reinsertion.
2. RNs will attempt to insert IV catheters no more than twice. After two unsuccessful attempts at cannulation, a different, experienced person should continue attempts:
  - a. in surgical patients, another RN may attempt or a member of the Dept. of Anesthesiology (Clinical Coordinator, staff assigned to the patient, or other staff members, as appropriate and available) may be consulted
  - b. in non-surgical patients, another RN should be consulted
3. If the second RN is not successful, the Anesthesia Clinical Coordinator may be consulted. If there is no Anesthesiology staff member available to attempt catheter insertion and the patient is not scheduled to receive anesthesia services, the attending physician must determine whether the admitting service will attempt insertion of the catheter or if the case will be cancelled.

DESIRED PATIENT  
OUTCOMES:

1. The patient demonstrates and/or reports adequate pain control during insertion of the IV catheter.
2. The IV catheter insertion site will be free of signs or symptoms of infiltration or injury to the vein.
3. The patient's fluid status will be consistent with or improved from baseline levels established preoperatively.
4. The patient will receive appropriate medication(s), administered safely throughout the perioperative period.

CLINICAL  
ASSESSMENT  
AND CARE:  
APPROVAL:

Per Lippincott Manual of Nursing Practice and NPM protocol /  
procedure for IV Therapy: Peripheral  
Nursing Standards Committee

EFFECTIVE DATE: 10/03, 2/08, 11/08, 7/09