Central Venous Access Device (CVAD) Site Care and Dressing Change Competency
National Infusion and Vascular Access Society (NIVAS)

Practitioner’s name……………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………

Clinical Area: - ........................................................................................................................................................................

Statement of Outcome:

The practitioner will demonstrate competence in performing CVAD site care, needlefree device and dressing changes.

Performance Criteria

The practitioner will be able to demonstrate:

1. Knowledge of the organisation’s policy and is able to discuss the rationale for changing a CVAD dressing and the possible complications associated with the procedure.

2. Knowledge of the type of CVAD in use and the difference between valved and open-ended catheters and the use of an external clamp where appropriate.

3. Appropriate hand hygiene, cleaning of the dressing trolley and the collection of the correct equipment for the procedure.

4. An appropriate introduction at the bedside, explanation of the procedure and the acquisition of the patient’s consent. Ensures the patient’s position is appropriate for the procedure as well as comfortable (If the patient lacks capacity, best interests’ decisions should be made or consent obtained by legal proxy).

5. The use of universal precautions (hand washing and appropriate use of gloves and apron), and prepares the equipment following the principles of asepsis.

6. The removal of the old dressing using a ‘stretch-technique’ and an upwards direction to prevent displacement of the CVAD. Avoids touching the insertion site at all times.

7. An assessment of the integrity of the device and can demonstrate checking for signs of complications.
8. The removal of non-sterile gloves and further decontamination of hands before the application of sterile gloves. (If applicable, removes the securement device and Chlorhexidine dressing, for tunnelled, cuffed catheters considers the timescale for the removal of sutures and winged securement device). Uses 2% Chlorhexidine /70% alcohol solution to clean around the insertion site. Allows to air dry before applying securing device (if applicable), Chlorhexidine dressing if used, and transparent semi-permeable dressing. Dates dressing.

9. Safe removal of the the old needlefree device using clamps when present, appropriate disinfection of the proximal catheter and application of new sterile needlefree device using aseptic non-touch technique

10. Correct flushing of the CVAD using at least 10ml 0.9% sodium chloride and utilising a ‘push pause’ flush with a positive pressure disconnection. Identifies the need for Heparinised saline if required according to organisational policy.

11. Disposal of equipment as clinical waste, cleaning of trolley and decontamination of hands.

12. The completion of appropriate documentation.

It is the responsibility of each individual undertaking a procedure to ensure they have the appropriate skills and knowledge to be competent in accordance with their individual regulating body e.g. NMC.

The individual practitioner will be responsible for ensuring they regularly update their clinical knowledge for this area of practice with reference to the most current guidelines.

This competency will be reviewed every 2 years from the time of publication.

Date compiled:

Review date: