The procedures described in this fact sheet are only to be performed by competent personnel and trainees supervised by competent personnel, and in conjunction with local procedures.

Dressing

Dressing specification options

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dressing type</th>
<th>Replacement interval</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Transparent, semi-permeable, self-adhesive polyurethane</td>
<td>Weekly*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gauze</td>
<td>Second daily*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chlorhexidine-impregnated</td>
<td>Weekly*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*All dressings should be replaced routinely as well as when the dressing becomes damp, loosened, no longer occlusive or adherent, soiled, if there is evidence of inflammation, or excessive accumulation of fluid. Manufacturer’s recommendations should be followed.

Aseptic technique

- Hand hygiene
- Sterile dressing pack
- Sterile drape
- Sterile gloves
- Environmental control (pull curtains).

Sutures

- Suture at insertion site is usually removed at 7-10 days.
- Suture at exit site should be removed after three weeks.
- Sutureless securement devices may be used.
- A catheter that has migrated externally should not be readvanced.

Skin prep for dressing

- 2% alcoholic chlorhexidine, or 10% povidone iodine with 70% alcohol.
- Cleanse the area (the size of the final dressing) around the catheter including under the hub.
- Cleanse vigorously for at least 30 seconds moving in concentric circles from the site outward. Repeat this step a total of three times using a new swab for each application. Allow to air dry.

Submersion

- The dressing (including polyurethane types) should not be immersed or submerged in water:
  - Showering is preferable to bathing, and swimming or spa bathing should be avoided.
Accessing the catheter

Personal protective equipment (PPE)
- Apron
- Non-sterile gloves
- Protective eyewear as required.

Aseptic technique
- Hand hygiene
- Environmental control (pull curtains).

Antiseptic
- 70% isopropyl alcohol swab or alcoholic chlorhexidine.

Accessing the catheter
- All intravenous access ports should be meticulously cleaned with a single-use 70% alcohol-impregnated swab or alcoholic chlorhexidine and allowed to air dry prior to accessing the system.
- The catheter should be accessed with a sterile single-use device.

Needleless access ports
- Needleless access ports eliminate opening the catheter hub. Use aseptic.
- Anytime a needleless access port or cap is removed from a catheter, it should be discarded and a new sterile cap should be attached.
- Needleless access ports should be changed:
  - at the frequency recommended by the manufacturer, and:
  - if the integrity of the access port is compromised, or
  - if residual blood remains within the access port.

CVC review

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assess each shift for:</th>
<th>Signs of systemic infection:</th>
<th>Catheter position</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Insertion site:</td>
<td>• Signs of systemic infection:</td>
<td>• Occlusion/patency:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o Erythema</td>
<td>o Rigor</td>
<td>o Flush regularly.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o Tenderness</td>
<td>o Fever</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o Swelling</td>
<td>o Tachycardia</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o Pain</td>
<td>o Hypotension</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o Palpable venous cord</td>
<td>o Malaise</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o Purulent discharge</td>
<td>o Nausea/vomiting.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>