

# Visual Infusion Phlebitis Score



IV 3000<sup>°</sup>

Moisture Responsive  
Catheter Dressing

## Policy Statement

All patients with an intravenous access device in Place must have the IV site checked at least daily for signs of infusion phlebitis. The subsequent score And action(s) taken (if any) must be documented. The cannula site must also be observed when:

- Bolus injections are administered
- IV flow rates are checked or altered
- Solution containers are changed

The incidence of infusion phlebitis varies. The Following 'Good Practice Points' may assist in Reducing the incidence of infusion phlebitis:

- 1 Observe cannula site at least daily
- 2 Secure cannula with a proven intravenous dressing
- 3 Replace loose, contaminated dressings
- 4 Cannula must be inserted away from the joints whenever possible
- 5 Aseptic technique must be followed
- 6 Consider your policy position on resiting of the cannulae
- 7 Plan and document continuing care
- 8 Use the smallest gauge cannula most suitable for the patients' needs
- 9 Replace the cannula at the first indication of infusion phlebitis (Stage 2 on the VIP score)

IV site appears healthy		0	>	No signs of phlebitis	OBSERVE CANNULA
<b>One</b> of the following is evident: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Slight pain near IV site or</li> <li>• Slight redness near IV site</li> </ul>		1	>	Possible first signs	OBSERVE CANNULA
<b>Two</b> of the following are evident: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pain at IV site</li> <li>• Erythema</li> <li>• Swelling</li> </ul>		2	>	Early stage of phlebitis	RESITE CANNULA
<b>All</b> of the following signs are evident: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pain along path of cannula</li> <li>• Erythema</li> <li>• Induration</li> </ul>		3	>	Mid-stage of phlebitis	RESITE CANNULA CONSIDER TREATMENT
<b>All</b> of the following signs are evident and extensive: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pain along path of cannula</li> <li>• Erythema</li> <li>• Induration</li> <li>• Palpable venous cord</li> </ul>		4	>	Advanced stage of phlebitis or start of thrombophlebitis	RESITE CANNULA CONSIDER TREATMENT
<b>All</b> of the following signs are evident and extensive: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pain along path of cannula</li> <li>• Erythema</li> <li>• Induration</li> <li>• Palpable venous cord</li> <li>• Pyrexia</li> </ul>		5	>	Advanced stage of thrombophlebitis	INITIATE TREATMENT

## Wound Management

Smith & Nephew Healthcare Ltd  
Healthcare House, Goulton Street  
Hull HU3 4DJ

advice@smith-nephew.com  
www.smith-nephew.com  
www.ivteam.com

<sup>°</sup> Trademark of Smith & Nephew  
43OP1105

T 01482 222200  
F 01482 222211

Adapted with permission from Andrew Jackson Consultant Nurse, I.V. Therapy and Care, Rotherham General Hospital NHS Trust, © Andrew Jackson 1999.