

Vein Assessment

VEIN LEVEL

- Level 1:** Visible, easy to palpate, large in size
- Level 2:** Visible, easy to palpate, moderate in size, previous IV site
- Level 3:** Visible, easy to palpate, small size, previous IV site, limited veins (some sclerosed)
- Level 4:** Difficult to see, can be palpated, age > 70, previous therapy has resulted in poor veins
- Level 5:** Vein not visible, cannot be palpated, may require multiple techniques

PHLEBITIS SCALE

- 1+** Pain at Site
- 2+** Pain and redness at Site
- 3+** Pain, redness and swelling at site with palpable cord of less than 7.5 cm
- 4+** Pain, redness and swelling at site with palpable cord of 7.5 cm or greater

Infiltration Scale *DAR if >0

0 No symptoms

1 Skin blanched

Edema < 2.5 cm in any direction

Cool to touch

With or without pain

2 Skin blanched

Edema 2.5 – 15 cm in any direction

Cool to touch

With or without pain

3 Skin blanched, translucent

Gross Edema > 15 cm in any direction

Cool to touch

Mild – moderate pain

Possible numbness

4 Skin blanched, translucent

Skin tight, leaking

Skin discolored, bruised, swollen, gross

edema > 15 cm in any direction

Deep pitting tissue edema

Circulatory impairment

Moderate – severe pain

Infiltration of any amount of blood

product, irritant, vesicant

Lewis et al. 2017. Journal of ICM. Adapted from Society of Infusion Nursing

Peripheral IV Insertion Compliance Bundle

1. Match operator skill to vein level assessment
2. Change operator after 2 attempts
3. Wear gloves (PPE)
4. Clip hair (don't shave) if necessary
5. 30 second scrub: 2% chlorhexidine/70% alcohol
6. Air dry one minute
7. No touch after cleaning (or non-contaminated sterile gloves)
8. Maintain all IV ports and connections aseptically