

04-0407 – Utilization, Monitoring and Continuation of Pre-Existing Lines & Catheters

Authority

Health and Safety Code Division 2.5, California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Division 9

Definition

1. Foley Catheter: A urinary tract catheter with a balloon attachment at the distal end.
2. Saline Lock: An intermittent infusion device that is used episodically for fluid or medication infusion.
3. Thoracostomy tube: A surgically placed chest tube.
4. For other catheters for infusion of fluids or medications, see protocol [#04-0408 Pre-Existing Vascular Access Devices](#).

Precautions

1. Personal protective equipment (standard or universal precautions if indicated).
2. Consider the patient or reliable family member as a source of information about their IV access lines and various other catheters.

Treatment

Foley Catheters

1. Assure the catheter is patent and that the tubing is secured to the patient's thigh or that an abdominal belt is in place to secure the catheter.
2. Do not place any tension on the catheter.
3. Attach the collection bag to the gurney at a level below that of the patient to facilitate drainage by gravity.
4. Protect catheter while loading and unloading patient.

Saline Locks

1. These may be monitored and accessed as needed.
2. Watch for signs of infiltration/infection and discontinue as indicated.

Peripheral Lines

Pre-existing intravenous fluids (central or peripheral) containing medications not within the scope of practice, may be monitored in the prehospital setting with the following restrictions:

1. Monitor and maintain the IV access at the preset infusion rate.
2. Check for kinks and reposition the arm if necessary when loss of flow occurs.
3. If infiltration or alteration of flow occurs, contact the base hospital immediately for possible termination of the IV infusion.
4. Notify base hospital physician of pre-existing treatment prior to discontinuing any medication.

Documentation

1. In ePCR, note date, time, and location of pre-existing IV access line(s) and/or other catheters/tube.
2. Notify receiving caregiver of pre-existing lines or catheters/tube.