

Peripheral Venous Catheter Care Bundle Checklist

| Day | Catheter Care Procedure | Indicate if completed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> or <input type="checkbox"/> | Initial to indicate who performed the action | Comments |
|---|--|--|--|----------|
| 0 hours | 1. Patient details: name, case number, species, breed, colouring | | | |
| | 2. Date of insertion | | | |
| | 3. Time of insertion | | | |
| | 4. Location of peripheral catheter (e.g. left cephalic vein) | | | |
| | 5. Catheter Gauge | | | |
| | 6. Reason for catheter (e.g. GA, IVFT, chemotherapy) | | | |
| | 7. Details of methods used for catheter site preparation (e.g. clipped, scrubbed, spirit applied) | | | |
| | 8. Ease of insertion of catheter (e.g. first attempt without resistance) | | | |
| | 9. Patient compliance (e.g. minimal restraint required) | | | |
| | 10. Appearance of catheter site and limb prior to insertion: (<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> relevant observations) Pain <input type="checkbox"/> Limb swelling <input type="checkbox"/> Pressure sores <input type="checkbox"/> Erythema (reddening of skin) <input type="checkbox"/> OK <input type="checkbox"/> | | | |
| | 11. Catheter flushed with sterile saline/heparin solution? | | | |
| +24 hours | 12a. Appropriate hand hygiene followed before handling patient: (<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> relevant method/s used) WHO hand washing technique <input type="checkbox"/> Hibiscrub <input type="checkbox"/> Povidine <input type="checkbox"/> Gloves <input type="checkbox"/> Intersoft dk <input type="checkbox"/> | | | |
| | 13a. Appearance of protective bandage layer (<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> relevant observations) Wet <input type="checkbox"/> Soiled <input type="checkbox"/> OK <input type="checkbox"/> | | | |
| | 14a. Any patient interference, chewed? | | | |
| | 15a. Details of catheter site and limb: (<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> relevant observations) Pain <input type="checkbox"/> Limb swelling <input type="checkbox"/> Pressure sores <input type="checkbox"/> Erythema (reddening of skin) <input type="checkbox"/> OK <input type="checkbox"/> | | | |
| | 16a. Catheter flushed with sterile saline/heparin solution? | | | |
| | 17a. Injection port cleaned with surgical spirit? (if applicable) | | | |
| | 18a. Daily review of necessity – does the patient still need the catheter? | | | |
| | 19a. Catheter removed? Reason for removal | | | |
| | +48 hours | 12b. Appropriate hand hygiene followed before handling patient: (<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> relevant method/s used) WHO hand washing technique <input type="checkbox"/> Hibiscrub <input type="checkbox"/> Povidine <input type="checkbox"/> Gloves <input type="checkbox"/> Intersoft dk <input type="checkbox"/> | | |
| 13b. Appearance of protective bandage layer (<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> relevant observations) Wet <input type="checkbox"/> Soiled <input type="checkbox"/> OK <input type="checkbox"/> | | | | |
| 14b. Any patient interference, chewed? | | | | |
| 15b. Details of catheter site and limb: (<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> relevant observations) Pain <input type="checkbox"/> Limb swelling <input type="checkbox"/> Pressure sores <input type="checkbox"/> Erythema (reddening of skin) <input type="checkbox"/> OK <input type="checkbox"/> | | | | |
| 16b. Catheter flushed with sterile saline/heparin solution? | | | | |
| 17b. Injection port cleaned with surgical spirit? (if applicable) | | | | |
| 18b. Daily review of necessity – does the patient still need the catheter? | | | | |
| 19b. Catheter removed? Reason for removal | | | | |
| +72 hours | | 12c. Appropriate hand hygiene followed before handling patient: (<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> relevant method/s used) WHO hand washing technique <input type="checkbox"/> Hibiscrub <input type="checkbox"/> Povidine <input type="checkbox"/> Gloves <input type="checkbox"/> Intersoft dk <input type="checkbox"/> | | |
| | 13c. Appearance of protective bandage layer (<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> relevant observations) Wet <input type="checkbox"/> Soiled <input type="checkbox"/> OK <input type="checkbox"/> | | | |
| | 14c. Any patient interference, chewed? | | | |
| | 15c. Details of catheter site and limb: (<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> relevant observations) Pain <input type="checkbox"/> Limb swelling <input type="checkbox"/> Pressure sores <input type="checkbox"/> Erythema (reddening of skin) <input type="checkbox"/> OK <input type="checkbox"/> | | | |
| | 16c. Catheter flushed with sterile saline/heparin solution? | | | |
| | 17c. Injection port cleaned with surgical spirit? (if applicable) | | | |
| | 18c. Daily review of necessity – does the patient still need the catheter? | | | |
| | 19c. Catheter removed? Reason for removal | | | |

How to use the peripheral venous catheter care checklist

The checklist consists of quality indicators which are repeated every 24 hours over a 72 hour period. Each patient with an intravenous catheter should be assigned a checklist.

Each day the veterinary nurse or veterinary surgeon caring for the patient should complete each intervention and record their findings on the checklist provided. This can then be used as a tool for communicating between staff any problems with the catheter. It can also be used to collect data on what interventions are being completed.

What is the benefit of using the peripheral venous catheter care checklist?

Although intravenous catheter insertion has become common practice, breaking the skin barrier alters the hosts' defences against infection, which increases the risk of local infection or bacteraemia with more serious complications such as septicaemia. This causes concern for patient safety.

The peripheral venous catheter care checklist will help to increase patient safety. It consists of 14 quality indicators, repeated every 24 hours over a 72 hour period. This timing allows for objective assessment of clinical performance for insertion and management of the peripheral intravenous catheters. For example, appropriate hand hygiene followed before handling the patient, appearance of catheter insertion site and timely removal of the catheter are some of the interventions.

This checklist will hopefully be valued by veterinary nurses as it can be used as a practical tool to care for patients who need an intravenous catheter placed as part of their treatment. It has an additional use as an educational tool, to help and show students the correct protocol for caring for an intravenous catheter."

About the author

Sarah Hancill qualified as a veterinary nurse in 2011 at the Royal Veterinary College, London.

About the catheter care checklist

This checklist has been published as a result of the RCVS Charitable Trusts 'Driving Practice Innovation' competition. The competition marked the 50th anniversary of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons veterinary nursing qualification. The aim of the competition was to inspire and encourage veterinary nurses to improve practice by acting upon ideas about how things at work can be done differently in order to have a positive impact on the quality of care given to patients.

Vet nurses are in a unique place to see how day-to-day practice can be improved. You can make real changes that affect quality and care. If you have an idea, please get in touch. We might be able to help you put your idea into action. Visit our [website](#) for more information.

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