PHLEBITIS FROM IV SITE, TREATMENT OF

POLICY:

All patients with peripheral IV’s will have sites assessed by RN’s and LPN’s each shift and 24 and 48 hours after site discontinued.

PURPOSE:

To ensure prompt and consistent intervention by nursing personnel in regards to peripheral IV sites.

LEVEL:

Interdependent

SUPPORTIVE DATA:

(Risk Issue)

Hershey has reported that in excess of 40% of cannula-associated phlebitis occurs more than 24 hours after the cannula has been removed. It appears that the removal of the cannula does not consistently terminate the development of phlebitis. After the cannula is removed the site must be monitored until the phlebitis indicators have diminished.

INTERVENTIONS:

**Nursing Judgement Order or Physician Order required

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stage of Phlebitis</th>
<th>Clinical Indicators</th>
<th>Nursing Intervention</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>No pain, redness or edema at IV site.</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Redness &lt;1-1/2&quot; above IV site, no pain, edema, hardness palpable cord.</td>
<td>DC the IV cath</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Painful site with redness, warmth and/or edema ≥1-1 1/2” above IV site. With or without palpable cord or hardness.</td>
<td>• DC IV cath, • Elevate extremity prn, • Apply warm moist packs for 20 min. QID** • Notify infection control nurse</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Painful site with redness, edema, hardness with palpable cord &gt;3” above site.</td>
<td>• DC IV cath, • Culture tip** • Apply warm moist packs for 20 min. QID** • Notify physician and infection control nurse control nurse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Purulent drainage with or without criteria for #3.</td>
<td>• DC IV catheter if still in place • Culture drainage at insertion site** • Culture IV catheter tip** • Apply warm moist packs for 20 minutes QID** • Notify physician and infection control nurse.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
PHYSICIAN NOTIFICATION:

Notify if site at stage 3 or 4.

INFECTION CONTROL:

Notify infection control nurse if site is at stage 2, 3, or 4.

PATIENT TEACHING:

1. Teach early signs of site phlebitis.
   a. redness
   b. pain
   c. swelling
   d. tenderness
   e. warm
2. Keep area clean and dry.
3. After IV cath removal, keep site clean and dry for 24 hours after removal.

DOCUMENTATION:

Record assessment in CPSI IV flowchart. Document any procedures or treatments and response to treatments in CPSI flowchart.