DATE: December 3, 2009

TITLE: Peripherally Inserted Central Catheter (PICC) Line Care

PURPOSE: The purpose of this guideline is to provide information on the best practices related to preventing complications with PICC lines: routine care & dressing changes, medication infusion, maintaining patency.

GUIDELINE:

Routine care & dressing
1. Perform hand hygiene.
2. Perform a visual inspection of the PICC line insertion site and surrounding area with nurse’s initial assessment.
3. If PICC line dressing is found to be torn, loose, damp, soiled, or raised, the nurse should perform the following steps:
   a. Perform hand hygiene.
   b. Apply a face mask.
   c. Apply non-powdered sterile gloves.
   d. Reinforce all edges of the PICC line dressing.
   e. Document.
   f. Alert PICC line team of findings (if applicable)
4. If PICC line dressing is not found to be torn, loose, damp, soiled, or raised, the insertion site dressing should be changed every 7 days to decrease in incidence of infection.
5. Change dressing 24 hours post PICC insertion. Then routinely every seven days and as needed
   *PICC line dressing change kit should include: Chloraprep, alcohol, BIOPATCH disc, an occlusive transparent Tegaderm dressing, and an optional statlock
   *connectors should be change with each dressing change and as needed.

Medication infusion
1. Perform hand hygiene.
2. Apply face mask.
3. Apply non-powered, non-sterile gloves.
4. Assess PICC line insertion site for signs of infection.
5. Vigorously scrub the port using at least 70% isopropyl alcohol for 5-10 seconds with a vigorous back and forth motion
6. Using a 10mL or larger syringe, aspirate for blood return.
7. Flush line with 10mL of normal saline.
8. Infuse medication.
9. Flush line with 10mL of normal saline.

Maintaining patency
1. Perform hand hygiene.
2. Apply face mask.
3. Apply non-powered, non-sterile gloves.
4. Assess PICC line insertion site, for signs of infection.
5. Vigorously scrub the port using an alcohol swab.
6. Using a 10mL or larger syringe, aspirate for blood return.
7. Flush PICC line with 10mL of normal saline using a push-pause technique at least once every 8 hours and PRN

**SUPPORTING EVIDENCE:**


