
Overview

This standard relates specifically to the insertion of intravenous cannula to facilitate access to the blood system for treatment or diagnostic purposes. Access may be required for serial sampling, or for administration of fluid or drug treatments. This procedure may be performed with adults or children and will usually take place in hospital with individuals receiving health care. It may also take place in a therapeutic, research or emergency situation.

You will need a firm knowledge and understanding of this procedure based upon your employers protocols, guidelines and patient group directives, where used.

Users of this standard will need to ensure that practice reflects up to date information and policies.

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Perform intravenous cannulation

Performance criteria

- You must be able to:*
- P1 apply standard precautions for infection prevention and control and other relevant health and safety measures
 - P2 determine the individual's need or clinical request for cannulation against agreed protocol
 - P3 check the individual's identity and confirm the planned activity
 - P4 give the individual relevant information, support and reassurance in a manner which is sensitive to their needs and concerns
 - P5 gain valid consent to carry out the planned activity
 - P6 assess risks relevant to performing procedure prior to commencement and take relevant action to eliminate risks to the individual – both pre and post cannulation
 - P7 seek clinical advice and support from an appropriate member of the team when events or risks are beyond your level of competence
 - P8 select an appropriate site for cannulation, taking account of individual's comfort and mobility, and prepare the selected site for aseptic insertion of the intravenous cannula following agreed protocol, administering the appropriate local anaesthetic if prescribed
 - P9 correctly position and use a tourniquet to engorge the selected vein with blood
 - P10 select the cannula of correct size and type for individual and purpose, ensuring it is fit for use
 - P11 insert the cannula into the selected vein using the approved technique and confirm correct siting, positioning and patency of cannula for the intended purpose
 - P12 apply an approved dressing to fix the cannula in position
 - P13 where appropriate, flush the cannula when in situ according to local protocols and guidelines
 - P14 attach and secure the correct giving set where infusion is required following approved procedures
 - P15 immediately report any condition or behaviour which may signify adverse reactions to the procedure and take appropriate action
 - P16 document the cannulation procedure in accordance with patient records procedures
 - P17 maintain the cannulation site at regular intervals to avoid infection and maintain access

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Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

- K1 the current European and National legislation, national guidelines, organisational policies and protocols in accordance with Clinical/Corporate Governance which affect your work practice in relation to performing intravenous cannulation
- K2 your responsibilities and accountability in relation to the current European and National legislation, national guidelines and local policies and protocols and Clinical/Corporate Governance
- K3 the duty to report any acts or omissions in care that could be detrimental to yourself, other individuals or your employer
- K4 the importance of applying standard precautions to performing intravenous cannulation and the potential consequences of poor practice
- K5 the importance of working within your own sphere of competence when and seeking clinical advice when faced with situations outside your sphere of competence
- K6 the risks associated with the insertion of intravenous cannulae
- K7 current evidence based practice related to the management of risks associated with the insertion of intravenous cannulae
- K8 the importance of protecting the comfort, safety and security of the individual and self throughout insertion of intravenous cannulae
- K9 the importance of maintaining strict asepsis when preparing, inserting and managing intravenous cannulae
- K10 the anatomy and physiology of the circulatory system in relation to the insertion and maintenance of intravenous cannulae
- K11 the importance of correct preparation and positioning of individuals for insertion of intravenous cannulae
- K12 the indications and reasons for intravenous cannulation
- K13 potential sites for insertion of intravenous cannulae and how to identify the most suitable for the individual
- K14 the factors influencing:
 - K14.1 the choice of cannulae
 - K14.2 the site for intravenous cannulation
- K15 the importance of limb immobilisation prior to the insertion of intravenous cannulae
- K16 the importance of appropriate skin preparation, including the use of depilatory cream if required
- K17 the importance, and approved methods, of controlling and stopping blood flow prior to intravenous cannulation
- K18 the possible adverse reactions to the insertion of intravenous cannulae
- K19 the actions you will need to take in the event of adverse reactions to the insertion of intravenous cannulae
- K20 the importance of and the methods of cleaning and maintaining the

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- cannula site following insertion of cannulae
- K21 the clinical indications of infection in the insertion site and the actions you would take if signs of infection are apparent
- K22 the implications of introducing fluids into the circulatory system when flushing cannula
- K23 the approved methods of checking the patency of inserted cannula
- K24 the procedures for preparing fluids for administration including drug additions
- K25 the potential complications associated with fluid administration
- K26 the different types of administration sets available and the circumstances when each may be used
- K27 the uses and potential hazards associated with the use of infusion pumps
- K28 the types of cannulae and the range of sizes available
- K29 the types of infusion available and their characteristics, indications and contra-indications
- K30 the different types of infusion pumps available and the circumstances when they may be used
- K31 the potential hazards associated with intravenous infusion administration sets
- K32 the importance of correctly recording your activities including type of cannula inserted and intravenous fluids administered
- K33 the importance of keeping accurate and up to date records
- K34 the importance of immediately reporting any issues which are outside your own sphere of competence without delay to the relevant member of staff

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Additional Information

External Links

This standard links with the following dimension within the NHS Knowledge and Skills Framework (October 2004):

Dimension: HWB7 Interventions and treatments

The candidate and assessor must only sign below when all Performance Criteria and Knowledge points have been met.

Unit assessed as being complete

Candidate's Name:	
Candidate's Signature:	
Date submitted to assessor as complete:	

Assessor's Name:	
Assessor's Signature:	
Date assessed as complete:	

Internal Verification —

to be completed in accordance with centre's IV strategy

Evidence for this Unit was sampled on the following date/s:	IV's Signature	IV's Name

This Unit has been subject to an admin check in keeping with the centre's IV strategy.

Date of admin check	IV's Signature	IV's Name

Unit completion confirmed

IV's Name:	
IV's Signature:	
Date complete:	