

KEEP THE IV CLEAN, USE SALINE!

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BACKGROUND

- Interviewed forty eight RNs and found there was a complete lack of knowledge regarding peripheral IV (intravenous) flush orders.
- Evidence supports the use of normal saline flushes instead of heparin to maintain the patency of peripheral IVs.¹
- According to Lehigh Valley Health Network policy, it is necessary for nurses to flush peripheral IVs with a minimum of 10 mL of normal saline solution (NSS) every twelve hours.²
- Maintaining patency in peripheral IVs is crucial to reduce the need for catheter replacement and prevent patient discomfort.¹

PICO QUESTION

- Purpose: To increase number of nursing orders for routine peripheral IV flushes.
- **P** – Nurses on IPCU & CICU
- **I** – Education
- **C** – No Education
- **O** – Increased number of nursing orders for peripheral IV flushes
- Will there be an increased compliance amongst nurses for placing routine peripheral IV flush orders with standardized education measures than without intervention?

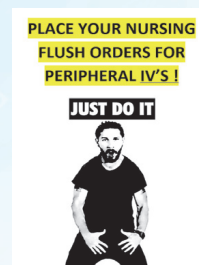
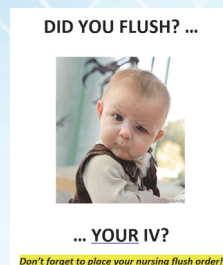
EVIDENCE

The lack of protocol, acuity of patients, and nursing workload are all factors that consequently influence adherence of flushing practice and prevention of IV catheter obstruction.³

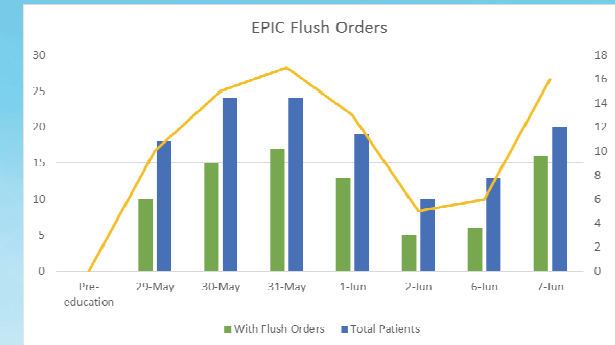
- **WHY FLUSH?** Flushing with normal saline at frequent intervals (once a shift) has been proven to help peripheral IV's last longer.
- **WHY NSS?** Using 10 mL of normal saline solution is equivalent to heparinized flushes, but more cost effective.¹
- **WHY DOCUMENT?** Documenting is an important mechanism used to assess care performance conducted by the caregiver. It emphasizes monitoring quality of health-care as verified by patient outcomes.

IMPLEMENTATION

- Nurses were educated during team meetings and change of shift, as well as reminded with flyers containing funny memes and puns.
- Chart audits were utilized to assess the compliance of staff with placing flush orders.



OUTCOMES



- Barriers:
 - Reluctance of RNs to change
 - Perception of increased workload

NEXT STEP

- Explore the possibility of having a 10 mL NSS flush order automatically populate into EPIC once a peripheral IV is added as a LDA (Lines, Drains, Airways).

REFERENCES

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