Nursing Management of Venous Access Devices: *Pheresis and Dialysis Catheters*  

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Pheresis catheter

- A type of tunneled catheter used for pheresis of stem cells prior to hematopoietic stem cell transplant or for treatment of some blood disorders
- May also be used for infusions of hydration, transfusions, or medications
- Sutured in place (sutures should not be removed)

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Pheresis Catheters: Flushing

- Adults/Adolescents:
  - heparin 1,000 units/ml; instill volume of catheter (printed on each lumen) plus volume of cap (currently 0.2ml for MaxPlus)
  - If catheter volume not legible, contact CNS or Interventional Radiology for guidance

- Pedi/Toddlers:
  - refer to physician order

- Heparin or anticoagulant MUST be withdrawn from each lumen PRIOR to flushing or infusing

- When not in use, flush M-W-F and PRN

- Flush after completion of any infusion or blood sampling

- Refer to MGH Nursing Policies and Procedures Trove 05-03-06
Hemodialysis (HD) Catheters

- Hemodialysis catheters are accessed and managed by dialysis nurses ONLY
- HD catheters may be tunneled or non tunneled
- Please call HD unit or fellow on call when a HD patient is admitted to the hospital
- Some HD catheters may have a 3rd venous access port (smaller lumen) used in critical care & and with a special order on general care units for general IV access. Confirm use and flushing protocol with Dialysis Unit prior to access or use.
- For Questions: call Hemodialysis Unit at 617-726-3700
Examples of HD catheters

DO NOT REPLACE end caps or needleless connectors on any HD catheters. These are changed by HD nurses ONLY.

Examples of HD catheters with 3rd lumen access
HD catheter dressing change

- Maintain dry sterile occlusive dressing
- If dressing becomes soiled, wet or loose it needs to be changed: follow Central Venous Catheter Dressing Change policy (MGH Nursing Policies and Procedures Trove 05-03-05)
- Use covaderm dressing and apply Hemodialysis Access label to the dressing
- Prevent pulling or tugging of the catheter
- Teach patient to keep area clean and dry and avoid handling catheters ends
- No showers are allowed
- For questions: call Hemodialysis Unit at 617-726-3700