

Overview: NPSG 07.04.01 Implement evidence-based practices to prevent central line–associated bloodstream infections.

Note: This requirement covers short- and long-term central venous catheters and peripherally inserted central catheter (PICC) lines.

Why this standard is important to patient safety

Patients continue to acquire health care–associated infections at an alarming rate. Risks and patient populations, however, differ between hospitals. Therefore, prevention and control strategies must be tailored to the specific needs of each hospital based on its risk assessment. The elements of performance for this requirement are designed to help reduce or prevent central line associated-infections.

Elements of Performance

1. Educate staff and licensed independent practitioners who are involved in managing central lines about central line–associated bloodstream infections and the importance of prevention. Education occurs upon hire, annually thereafter, and when involvement in these procedures is added to an individual’s job responsibilities.
2. Prior to insertion of a central venous catheter, educate patients and, as needed, their families about central line–associated bloodstream infection prevention.
3. Implement policies and practices aimed at reducing the risk of central line–associated bloodstream infections. These policies and practices meet regulatory requirements and are aligned with evidence-based standards (for example, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and/or professional organization guidelines).
4. Conduct periodic risk assessments for central line–associated bloodstream infections, monitor compliance with evidence-based practices, and evaluate the effectiveness of prevention efforts. The risk assessments are conducted in time frames defined by the hospital, and this infection surveillance activity is hospital-wide, not targeted.
5. Provide central line–associated bloodstream infection rate data and prevention outcome measures to key stakeholders, including leaders, licensed independent practitioners, nursing staff, and other clinicians.
6. Use a catheter checklist and a standardized protocol for central venous catheter insertion.
7. Perform hand hygiene prior to catheter insertion or manipulation.
8. For adult patients, do not insert catheters into the femoral vein unless other sites are unavailable.
9. Use a standardized supply cart or kit that contains all necessary components for the insertion of central venous catheters.
10. Use a standardized protocol for sterile barrier precautions during central venous catheter insertion.
11. Use an antiseptic for skin preparation during central venous catheter insertion that is cited in scientific literature or endorsed by professional organizations.

12. Use a standardized protocol to disinfect catheter hubs and injection ports before accessing the ports.
13. Evaluate all central venous catheters routinely and remove nonessential catheters.