Change to Terminal Flush Practice

Effective immediately, terminal flushes for adult central lines will now be done with **Normal Saline only**.

Consistent with research evidence and in light of the heparin shortage, MGH will no longer use heparin for terminal flushes for adult central lines and prior to deaccessing implantable vascular access devices (port-a-caths). **Please note:** there is no change in practice for flushing hemodialysis or pheresis catheters.

Please refer to the chart below for information regarding terminal flushing.

For pediatric patients, please refer to the [pediatric flush guideline](#) posted on Apollo.

*The key to maintaining line patency is using the **push-pause technique** when flushing catheters. Click here to view a brief video on the push-pause flushing technique or use the camera on your phone to scan the QR code square.*

Please contact Julie Cronin or Linda Kelly with any questions or concerns.

October 2019