



Central Venous Access Device (CVAD): Site Care and Dressing Change

Before You Begin



- Talk to your patient, and determine a clean area where the patient can sit comfortably.
- Perform hand hygiene.
- Prepare the field of supplies.
- Open CVAD kit and sterile barrier.
 Handle the sterile barrier by the edges.
- Carefully pick up mask and put on.

Step 1: Assess the Insertion Site



- Put on your clean gloves.
- Carefully assess the insertion and the extremity for any signs of infection or evidence of venous thrombosis.
- Take note of any evidence of swelling, erythema, or drainage.
- Palpate the site gently to check for any tenderness.
- Ask the patient if they have any discomfort at or around the site.
- Remeasure the midarm circumference, and compare it to the baseline measurement.

NOTE: While this course presents evidence-based practices, it is important to refer to your organizational policies and procedures, state practice guidelines, specific physician orders, and/or equipment manufacturer's specific instructions.



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Step 2: Remove the Current Dressing



- Begin at the CVAD hub area, and gently remove the dressing perpendicular to the skin and toward the insertion site.
- Be careful not to dislodge the CVAD. If needed, you can secure the CVAD by taping the catheter outside of the dressing placement area.
- Note the following:
 - If present, remove the adhesive securement device, using alcohol to loosen the adhesive.
 - A subcutaneous securement device is not removed.
 - Tissue adhesive (TA) is replaced with each dressing change.
 - If sutures are in place, assess their integrity.

Step 3: Prepare to Apply the New Dressing



 Remove clean gloves, and perform hand hygiene. Put on sterile gloves.

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Step 4: Apply Skin Antisepsis



 Apply alcohol-based chlorhexidine solution using a back-and-forth motion for at least 30 seconds. Allow to dry fully.

Step 5: Apply New Securement Device (If Using)



- Securement options include integrated securement dressings, tissue adhesive, adhesive securement devices, and subcutaneous securement systems.
- Apply skin barrier solution and allow to dry before placing a new adhesive securement device.

Step 6: Apply TSM Dressing



- Apply skin barrier solution to the area under the dressing, avoiding the area around the insertion site, and allow to dry fully. Then apply TSM dressing, making sure to apply without tension or stretching.
- Note: an integrated securement dressing is used in this example.







• Label the dressing with the date and your initials.

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