

Kittitas County Prehospital Care Protocols

Subject: PROTOCOLS FOR THE EMT-IV MONITOR

The purpose of this document is to provide written protocols for EMTs recognized in the special skill of IV-Monitor and practicing in Kittitas County.

I. Peripheral IV Therapy Monitoring

A. Check patency and type of infusion solution.

B. Stabilization:

1. Dressing over insertion site
2. Stabilize limb on armboard if necessary
3. Stabilize tubing with two stress loops

C. Fluids:

1. Start with full bag of prescribed solution hung by hospital staff.
2. Adjust flow rate to prescribed rate
3. Replace bag with sterile technique when 50cc remain in current bag and readjust flow rate
4. Adjust flow rate as needed and at least hourly

D. Patency:

1. Observe for patency as necessary and record
2. Avoid kinks in tubing, pressure over or near insertion site
3. Observe insertion site for infiltration and extravasation
4. Consider possibility of clot occlusion if not patent and no other reason for lack of flow

E. Discontinuing an infiltrated or occluded IV:

1. Use universal precautions
2. Turn infusion off via roller clamp
3. Gently and systematically remove tape
4. Remove catheter and quickly cover with sterile 2x2
5. Immediately observe for intact catheter
6. Hold direct pressure over insertion site for 1-2 minutes until bleeding stops
7. Secure 2x2 over site with tape or band-aide
8. If catheter is not intact and a portion is missing, assume catheter embolus. Keep limb in dependent position and immediately seek medical intervention.
9. Record time IV catheter removed and length of catheter if IV discontinued

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F. Patient Assessment:

1. Respiratory and cardiovascular status assessed at start and repeat as necessary throughout transport
2. Record hourly amount of cc's of any fluids in and out, and fluid remaining in bag
3. Record solution and time when hanging new bag
3. Check condition of infusion site frequently and record at least hourly

G. Other:

1. The EMT IV-Monitor may not perform blood draws.
2. **NO MEDICATIONS** in IV and **NO BLOOD PRODUCTS** are to be given en route.
3. For situations not described in these protocols, or for other basic life support procedures, the EMT-IV Monitor is to operate under the *Washington State Basic Life Support Field Protocols*.

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