Vascular access link nurses initiative: A bold commitment to enhanced care
Surrey Memorial Hospital, British Columbia, Canada

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Our heartfelt appreciation to the leadership team for the privilege, which enabled the nurturance of our practice, to our colleagues whose encouragement has led us to a higher level of care, & to all our patients with whom we dedicate our efforts.

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**Planning**

- Development & deliberation of timeline.
- Presentation of proposal to leadership.
- "Open house" information Session.
- Recruitment of volunteer members.

**Organizing**

- Presentation of outline for the education sessions.
- Selection of topics of interest for the presentation of members.

**Learning**

- Review concepts in vascular care & management (principles supported education).
- Sonography (to wet access scanning - USR & ultrasound guided cannulation).
- Group validated interventions with UA/RN.

**Guiding**

- Supervised cannulations on dummies & on real arms.
- Availability of VA link peer support on every shift.

**Managing**

- Follow-up progress of members.
- Periodic review of care plan.
- Identification of new ideas for improvement.
- Recognition of individual contributions.

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**Patients**

- Offers genuine assurance.
- Promotes assurance & comfort to the patient & the family.
- Enhances patient’s understanding about vascular access.
- Increases the sustainability of vascular access.
- Enables patients/family to be proactive in self care management.

**Nurses**

- Facilitates empowerment.
- Uplifts self-confidence & team morale.
- Effectively manages vascular access sites, by motivating other staff.
- Effective implementation of action plans.
- Nurtures sustainable care plan based on conventional & contemporary sonography/assessment methods.
- Considers complicated access sites as opportunities for skills development.

**Health authority**

- Saves resources.
- Spera MD from unnecessary neck line insertion.
- Promotes proper utilization of time, supplies, manpower, & monetary resources.
- Averts unnecessary referrals & diagnostics (Radiology/Surgery).

**Future plans**

- Nurturance of the nursing initiative through networking.
- 100% pro-active involvement of nurses in the unit.
- Generate more opportunities for follow-up & for service enhancements.

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**Results**

- A comparative analysis of the pre & the post-grouping survey results have validated improvements to measured elements, as follows:

  1. Patient perception survey (on nursing):
     - 72% in general access care & management.
     - 67% in psycho-emotional influences.
  2. RN evaluation:
     - 74% in vascular access & management.
     - 67% in vascular access & management.

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**Feedback**

- "Relocated, there isn’t much space of knowledge. Are you making referrals elsewhere?" (Radiologist)
- "It’s always comforting having a VA nurse present on a shift", (Charge RN, Renal unit)
- "It is a splendid idea having illustrations & vascular access care sites in every patient chart", (Nephrologist)
- "With your great cannulation skills, you RN/ have spared me from inserting a (vascular) line, for the third time", (Radiologist)
- "Your (VA RN) assessment findings have helped me plan the workflow better", (Charge RN, Renal unit)
- "A well invested public funded project. Well done, well deserved! (Leadership)
- "I am truly enthusiastic to carry on & contribute to skills development", (VA RN)

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**Acknowledgment**

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**System and other related resources**

- Weekly case presentation
- Sonography on dummy
- Vascular scanning
- Vascular measurements
- Doppler assessment
- Weekly scan presentation

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**References**

- Identification of vascular access care plan.
- Periodic review of care plan.
- Follow-up progress of members.
- Recognize individual contributions.

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**Table**

- Patient perception
- RN evaluation

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**Images**

- Weekly case presentation
- Sonography on dummy
- Vascular scanning
- Vascular measurements