

# Staff Teaching Sheet: Bleeding from Central Venous Catheter Post-insertion

## Scant/small amount of bleeding from site:

- Reinforce the dressing and change as necessary.
- Mark borders of bleeding and document.
- Assess site regularly (q15-30 minutes for first hour, then every hour) for any further bleeding.
- Provide patient teaching about what to do if bleeding noted after discharge and give handout “Your HD Catheter” ([bcrenalagency.ca](http://bcrenalagency.ca) ► Health Info ► Managing My Care ► Vascular Access)

move the pressure systematically down the length of the tunneled catheter toward the exit site in order to isolate the source of bleeding.

- The primary source of bleeding is most commonly where the central venous catheter (CVC) enters the IJ vein or from broken capillaries within the tunnel, not at the exit site.
- By determining the source of the bleeding, pressure can be applied in the most effective manner.

## Significant bleeding from site (saturation through multiple dressings):



- Put in semi-Fowlers position and encourage patient to restrict movement.
- Change or reinforce the dressing, applying pressure dressing using 4x4s and adhesive tape.
- Apply pressure first over the neck vein (internal jugular - IJ)/clavicle area, and note whether or not bleeding is reduced or stopped. If bleeding persists,

- **Inform the nephrologist.** Patient may require further suturing to site and/or medications to promote coagulation. If inserted by surgeon, notify the surgeon.
- Assess site q15 mins for further bleeding until bleeding has ceased, then hourly. Document all assessment findings and interventions.
- Check the Hgb if prolonged or significant bleeding
- Do not discharge patient home until bleeding has stopped for a minimum of:
  - Scant/small amount of bleeding from site: 1 hour
  - Significant bleeding from site (saturation through multiple dressings): 2 hours
- Provide teaching to patient about what to do if bleeding noted after discharge and give handout “Your HD Catheter” found at: [bcrenalagency.ca](http://bcrenalagency.ca) ► Health Info ► Managing My Care ► Vascular Access)