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**Venous Needle Dislodgement in Hemodialysis**

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A significant bleeding event can result from dislodgement of a venous needle from the vascular access during the hemodialysis procedure. A review of the literature related to venous needle dislodgement (VND) and review of the results from a survey of nephrology nurses validated VND as a potential complication of hemodialysis therapy. Patient care staff and patient awareness of the risk was identified in both the literature and from the nephrology nurse survey as an important factor in prevention of VND. A collaborative workgroup adapted three education tools based upon the information they obtained from the literature review and nephrology nurse survey responses. One tool contains recommendations for nephrology nurses' assessment of the risk. A second tool identifies proactive recommendations that could be utilized by all patient care staff. A third tool, a one page handout resource for patient/family education is designed as a simple and visual message of the patient/family's role in helping the staff keep them safe during treatment. These three education tools serve as resources for proactive strategies to assist in minimizing the risk of VND are available to the hemodialysis community. Nephrology nurses using the nursing process and working collaboratively with all patient care staff, patients and their families can lead the way in the work of minimizing the risks of a significant and potentially lethal complication that can occur from loss of blood due to VND.

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