VENOUS NEEDLE DISLODgement (VND)
HOW TO MINIMIZE RISKS
Recommendations for Nephrology Nurses

1. AWARENESS

Education materials for staff, patients, and care providers.

2.

An area around the arteriovenous vascular access large enough for taping should be cleaned and allowed to dry before cannulation.

3.

Hemodialysis units should follow their organization's policy and procedure for:
1. Taping needles and bloodlines. The ANNA Core Curriculum for Nephrology Nursing, 7th edition, is a resource for information on the secure taping of access needles.
2. Securing CVC connections.

4.

Bloodlines should be looped loosely to allow movement of the patient but prevent bloodlines from pulling on the needles.

5.

If it is necessary to reposition a needle or flush a CVC, all taping should be replaced and needles secured with fresh/new/clean tape.

6.

Vascular access and needles/connections should be visible at all times during hemodialysis.

7.

Checking the vascular access and connections should be part of the monitoring routine during the hemodialysis treatment.

8.

All patients should be assessed for the level of risk of VND following the “Assessment of the Risk for a Serious Venous Needle Dislodgement Incident.” If indicated, an alarm device intended for monitoring a VND (wetness/blood) may be used.

9.

When the venous pressure alarm is activated, the vascular access, needle sites, access-bloodline connection, and bloodline positions should always be inspected prior to resetting the alarm and/or alarm limits.

10.

The lower limit of the venous pressure alarm should be set as close as possible to the current venous pressure, as allowed by the dialysis equipment.

11.

Staff members, patients, and care partners should be aware that the venous pressure monitoring system of the hemodialysis machine can often fail to detect VND and access-bloodline separation.

12.

Additional protection can be provided by devices intended to detect blood loss from the needle site to the environment.

Note: This poster was developed by the European Dialysis and Transplant Nurses Association/European Renal Care Association and adapted with permission by the American Nephrology Nurses Association.

Additional information available at the ANNA Venous Needle Dislodgement Project site at: https://www.annanurse.org/resources/vnd

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