All staff using the Fluid & Medication Management policies must first familiarise themselves with the contents of:

- Roles & Responsibilities Policy,
- Basic Infection Prevention & Control Principles related to Fluid & Medication
- Patient Identification Policy (Volume 11)

1 Midline Catheters

1.1 Contraindications

1.2 Maintenance

Definition

A peripheral catheter which is between 7.5cm and 20cm in length. Midline catheters are not centrally placed so are therefore not treated as Central Venous Access Devices. They will be differentiated from peripherally inserted central catheter (PICC) with the addition of an orange midline catheter label.

Criteria

- For the infusion of isotonic or near isotonic solutions that are required for longer than 4 days and up to 2 weeks
- Level 1 certification is required to manage Midline catheters (ie Level two certification is not required)
- Midline catheters must be labelled with a new orange midline label at dressing change. Radiology will supply additional labels for areas use.
1.1 Contraindications

- Therapies not appropriate include continuous vesicant chemotherapy, parenteral nutrition medications /solutions with pH less than 5 or greater than 9
- Must not be used for blood sampling
- Tourniquets or blood pressure cuffs must not be used on the arm where the Midline is indwelling

1.2 Maintenance

- Positive displacement devices **must be used** to maintain patency
- Midlines must be flushed at least once per shift with a pre-filled 0.9% Sodium Chloride 10 mL syringe
- Phlebitis scoring will be performed on each occasion prior to accessing the midline catheter
- Phlebitis scoring and documentation is required as per peripheral cannulae
- Midline catheters dressing requirements are as per the PICC dressing procedure.

References

- RNAO - Royal Nursing Association of Ottawa International Affairs and best practice Guidelines