Procedure Guideline for Drawing Blood and Administering Fluids through a CVAD

1. Verify the health care provider’s orders.
2. Gather the necessary equipment and supplies.
3. Perform hand hygiene and provide for the patient’s privacy.
4. Introduce yourself to the patient and family, if present.
5. Identify the patient using two identifiers, according to your agency’s policy. Compare the identifiers in the MAR/medical record with the information on the patient’s identification bracelet, and ask the patient to state his or her name.
6. Explain the procedure and its purpose to the patient and family caregiver, if present.
7. To draw blood from the CVAD (central venous access device):
   A. Perform hand hygiene and apply clean gloves.
   B. Turn off all infusions for at least 1 minute before drawing blood, and clamp lumens. Note: If you cannot stop the infusion, draw blood from a peripheral vein.
   C. When drawing blood through multilumen catheters, use the distal lumen (or the one recommended by the manufacturer). The distal lumen is usually the largest one and often carries a manufacturer’s label identifying it as the sampling port.
   D. Clean the injection cap with antiseptic and allow it to dry completely. Attach a 10-mL saline prefilled syringe, unclamp the catheter, aspirate gently for blood return, and flush the line with 3 to 5 mL of normal saline (as per agency policy).
   E. Remove the end of the IV tubing or the injection cap from the catheter hub. Keep the end of the IV tubing sterile.
   F. Disinfect the catheter hub with antiseptic solution.
   G. Attach an empty 10-mL syringe to the catheter hub, unclamp the catheter, and withdraw 4 to 5 mL of blood for your discard sample. This will be disposed of.
   H. Reclamp the catheter. Remove the syringe with the blood, and discard it in the appropriate biohazard container.
   I. Cleanse the hub with another antiseptic swab. Allow it to dry.
   J. Attach a Vacutainer to the end of the hub.
   K. Unclamp the catheter and withdraw the blood specimen with the appropriate specimen tube.
   L. Once the specimens have been obtained, reclamp the catheter and remove the vacutainer and tube.
   M. Cleanse the catheter hub with antiseptic solution. Allow it to dry.
   N. Attach a prefilled injection cap with a 10-mL syringe filled with 10 mL of normal saline to the catheter. Unclamp the catheter, and flush. Reclamp the catheter.
   O. Remove the syringe, and discard it into the appropriate biohazard container.
   P. If your agency’s policy requires that the catheter be flushed with a heparin solution, do so now. Then withdraw the syringe. The volume of heparin solution will vary by type of catheter and agency policy.
   Q. Put on a new pair of gloves and remove the old injection cap.
   R. Thoroughly clean the hub with a new alcohol swab and attach a new injection cap keeping both ends sterile.
   S. Label the blood specimen and put it into a specimen bag. Deliver it to the lab for
any testing.
8. If an IV infusion is needed, administer IV fluid by securely connecting the IV tubing to the end of the catheter, making sure both ends remain sterile. Cleanse the end of the IV tubing with an antiseptic swab before reconnecting it.
9. Resume the infusion as ordered. If fluid administration has not been ordered, clamp the catheter.
10. Once you’ve secured all the tubing connections, discard the used supplies in an appropriate receptacle.
11. Remove your gloves, and perform hand hygiene.
12. Help the patient into a comfortable position, and place toiletries and personal items within reach.
13. Place the call light within easy reach, and make sure the patient knows how to use it to summon assistance.
14. To ensure the patient’s safety, raise the appropriate number of side rails and lower the bed to the lowest position.
15. Document and report the patient’s response and expected or unexpected outcomes.