PIVA Preventing Infections in Vascular Access

Infection Control Nurses Association

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Dear Colleague

This is an excellent state of the art toolkit which will be an invaluable resource for all practitioners involved in the care of patients and clients requiring vascular access devices. The use of such devices is increasingly commonplace in both acute and primary care settings and the range of applications is diverse. All of these devices carry a significant risk of infection.

The 'Winning Ways' report *(DOH 2003)* clearly identifies the need to reduce infection associated with invasive devices and the 'Saving lives' Report *(DoH 2005)* identified central venous catheter care as one of the top five high impact interventions to reduce healthcare associated infections. The importance of this area of infection control cannot, therefore, be underestimated but the challenge is to ensure the dissemination and implementation of best practice.

A plethora of guidelines exist but these are not always accessible or user-friendly. This practical PIVA toolkit addresses these limitations by providing a set of evidence based resources. These include templates for documentation which can be incorporated into care plans or pathways, top ten tips for practitioners, patient information, and a cross referenced guide to national policies and training materials. These materials will equip teams working with vascular access devices with all they need to implement a direct patient management approach involving care bundles and small step change methodology.

This toolkit combines innovation and excellence and provides a gold standard for practice. It is an outstanding example of a resource which will directly reduce the incidence of infection and improve both the quality of care received by patients and their health outcomes.

Yours faithfully

Professor Dame Jill Macleod Clark
President ICNA

Developed in collaboration with 3M Health Care