

HARBOR-UCLA MEDICAL CENTER

SUBJECT: PREVENTION OF TUBING MISCONNECTIONS

POLICY NO. 382B

PURPOSE:

To create a set of standards to prevent the inadvertent misconnection of tubings, catheters, and syringes.

DEFINITIONS:

Misconnections of tubings: The inadvertent connection of one type of tubing, catheter or syringe to a port of access not intended for this purpose (e.g., connecting feeding tubes to IV lines or vice versa and connecting IV lines to an epidural catheter and vice versa.). Other examples of misconnections may include bladder catheters, rectal tubes and blood pressure cuffs. Misconnections can lead to serious injury or death.

High Risk Catheters: Epidural, intrathecal, ventriculostomy and arterial catheters.

POLICY:

Harbor-UCLA Medical Center staff shall take reasonable precautions to avoid accidental misconnection of tubings, catheters, and syringes.

Other tubings, catheters, and syringes: Defined, but not limited to, the following:

- Peripheral intravenous tubing/central venous (including PICC) catheters/tubing
- Hemodynamic monitoring lines/catheters/tubing
- Umbilical catheter tubing (arterial and venous)
- Blood administration tubing
- Peritoneal dialysis catheters
- Bladder (Foley) catheters/bladder pressure monitoring
- Enteric tubes (orogastric/nasogastric/percutaneousgastric/jejunostomy)
- Endotracheal/tracheotomy cuff inflation tubes
- Oxygen delivery devices
- In-line suction (Ballard)
- Chest drainage systems
- Automatic blood pressure cuff

EFFECTIVE DATE: 2/11

SUPERSEDES:

REVISED: 12/17

REVIEWED: 12/14, 12/17

REVIEWED COMMITTEE:

APPROVED BY:

Kim McKenzie, RN, MSN, CPHQ
Chief Executive Officer

Anish Mahajan, MD
Chief Medical Officer

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Chief Nursing Officer

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- Sequential compression device (SCD) tubing
- Syringes (oral/catheter tip/Luer-lock)
- Wound VAC System

PROCEDURE:

- Pharmacy should dispense oral liquid medications in unit of use oral syringes or commercially available dose cups whenever possible.
- When not dispensed in unit of use by Pharmacy, appropriately sized oral syringes (supplied in all clinical areas) should be used to prepare and administer oral/enteral liquids.
- Parenteral syringes (e.g., Luer-lock) are prohibited for use in the preparation and administration of oral medications/enteric feedings.
- Tubing with extra injection ports should not be connected to high risk catheters (see definition of high risk catheter above). Exception: the Becker Drainage System for ventriculostomies which has an injection site for use by neurosurgeons).
- All high-risk catheters will be labeled as to their type (see definition of high risk catheter below).
- Caregivers trace all lines from their origin to the connection port to verify attachments before making any connections or reconnections, or administering medications, solutions or other products.
- Clinicians with responsibility for managing and accessing lines and their connections, will trace and verify these lines and connections to their sources as part of hand-off communication (at staff shift change, or arrival to a new service/setting).
- Never attempt to force or alter a connection that does not fit easily and securely into an access port.
- For patients transported to areas without nursing support, staff in that area should immediately notify clinical staff in the nursing unit of origin, if a line becomes disconnected. Nursing staff in the nursing unit of origin will determine the need for immediate reconnection and nursing support.
- In the event that a high-risk catheter is accidentally disconnected reconnection is not permitted. Nursing staff must cap the patient's end of the tubing with sterile caps and inform the physician.
- Limit the frequency of disconnecting and reconnecting tubing to reduce the risk of misconconnections and infections (Follow established Departmental Policy).
- If multiple connections & reconnections are necessary (e.g. prior to transport from ICU to OR/procedure area), connections & reconnections are done one at a time whenever possible.
- The organization's committees concerned with evaluating products for purchase should consider products which contain engineering design controls designed to prevent misconconnections whenever possible.