

# Removal of a Subcutaneous Infusion Device

## PURPOSE

To safely and completely remove a subcutaneous infusion device.

## POLICY

1. Aseptic technique shall be used for this procedure.
2. Removal of a subcutaneous infusion device shall be performed by an RN under the following parameters:
  - a. With a physician's order or at the end of the prescribed therapy
  - b. Due to assessed patient complication (for example, complaints of discomfort, inflammation, or infiltration at the subcutaneous infusion site)
  - c. Routine site rotation performed every 48-72 hours, except for continuous pain management infusion. Site change may be made with cassette and tubing change, or at least every 5-7 days, unless integrity of site is compromised. Sites accessed longer than 72 hours require specific physician orders
3. When appropriate, the RN will instruct the patient or caregiver in this procedure.

## EQUIPMENT

Liquid soap and sanitizing gel

1 pair of gloves

Sterile gauze 2x2 or cotton ball

OPTIONAL: Band-Aid®  
Sharps container

## PROCEDURE

1. Explain procedure to patient.
2. Wash hands thoroughly with soap and water. Dry with clean paper towel.
3. Arrange supplies on a clean surface. Place sharps container near for ease of disposal.
4. Put on gloves. Remove tape and dressing.
5. Remove subcutaneous infusion device, inspect device to make sure it is intact.

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6. Dispose of device per Infection / Exposure Control policies and other state specific OSHA requirements.
7. Apply firm pressure with 2x2 or cotton ball over site if bleeding occurs.
8. Cover site with Band-Aid®, if appropriate.
9. Document procedure and condition of the used device in the patient's medical record.

### RESPONSIBILITY

The Clinical Specialist has the responsibility for approval of, compliance with, and revisions to this policy.

### MODIFICATION/REVISION

This policy is subject to modification or revision in part or its entirety to reflect changes in conditions subsequent to the effective date of this policy.

### REFERENCES

1. Infusion Nursing Standards of Practice – Revised 2016; Journal of Infusion Nursing, Supplement to January/February 2016, Volume 39, Number 1S.
2. Infusion Nursing: An Evidence-Based Approach, Third Edition edited by Mary Alexander, Ann Corrigan, Lisa Gorski, Judy Hankins, and Roxanne Perucca.
3. INS (Infusion Nurses Society) Policies and Procedures for Infusion Nursing, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition.