



Job Code: 9505

Grade: FE

HCWR: N

Job Title

Vascular Access Specialist

Department

Medicine/Hospital Medicine

Job Summary

The Vascular Access Specialist is responsible for ensuring quality care through education to staff, patients and family members for the Medical Procedure Services. The Vascular Access Specialist evaluates patient care, consults with nursing and medical colleagues and other health staff in the effective delivery of patient care. The position is responsible for placing ultrasound-guided peripherally inserted central catheter (PICC), Midline and Peripheral intravenous catheters and assist in routine bedside procedures such as paracentesis, thoracentesis, lumbar puncture, and central venous catheter placement. The Vascular Access Specialist will be responsible for the management of clinical care of general medicine inpatients in coordination with staff from the Division of Hospital Medicine.

Typical Duties

- Assesses patients for the need of a mid to long-term vascular access device (VAD) to provide a reliable device for therapy utilizing evidence-based guidelines for VAD placement and care. - Assesses patients with difficult intravenous access (DIVA) for appropriate VAD need
- Assesses patient information via electronic chart reviews for indications, pertinent history, and lab values and medication administration record
- Verifies indications for VAD placement, coordinate with physicians and provide recommendations for selection of appropriate vascular access device.
- Coordinates discharge planning and post-discharge follow-up of VADs, in collaboration with inpatient attending hospitalists
- Provides vascular access device placement for patients in the outpatient settings as appropriate
- Places and assists in maintaining the appropriate Vascular Access device throughout all hospital services except Pediatric patients; or refer to Interventional Radiology when appropriate
- Obtains informed patient consent for PICC placement
- Performs ultrasound-guided placement of vascular access devices under sterile or surgical aseptic technique as appropriate
- Administers local anesthesia (lidocaine) during ultrasound-guided procedures as appropriate
- Utilizes PICC tip confirmation system to confirm placement of PICC line
- Follows up on Chest X-Ray to confirm PICC placement if indicated
- Documents placement of vascular access devices in the electronic health record
- Addresses and assists medical and nursing colleagues in troubleshooting complications of vascular access devices
- Follows up on complications encountered during PICC placement and provide recommendations for unsuccessful PICC placement
- Declots VADs or assist staff as a resource in declotting
- Provides patient teaching on Vascular access device care and maintenance



Typical Duties

- Provides resource education to staff on vascular access devices
- Assists in writing policies and procedures related to VAD insertion, care and maintenance
- Provides staff education on VAD care and management and complication management
- Provides physician education and serve as an expert consultant to physicians on VADs
- Provides education and training on ultrasound-guided placement of vascular access devices to nursing and medical colleagues
- Collects VAD data and report on number of procedures performed independently, number of complications and rate of central line-associated blood stream infection in our procedures.
- Participates in the development of internal quality improvement processes for the division and department along with completion of other projects as assigned by the Division Chair
- Maintains knowledge and competency level related to infusion therapy
- Evaluates new VAD products introduced to the hospital and assist in training staff as appropriate
- Assists the Medical Procedure Service in routine bedside procedures such as paracentesis, lumbar puncture, central venous catheter placement, and ultrasound guided vascular access.
- Paracentesis placement in Paracentesis clinic as assigned by the Division Chair
- Performs other duties as assigned

Minimum Qualifications

- Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) from an accredited college or university
- Licensed as a Registered Professional Nurse in the State of Illinois prior to starting employment
- Three (3) years of full-time clinical nursing experience
- Two (2) years of vascular access experience
- Two (2) years of teaching which includes formal and clinical teaching ultrasound-guided vascular procedures
- Experience with ultrasound-guided peripheral IV, midline catheter and PICC placement
- Experience with Quality Improvement projects
- Prior experience using the PICC tip confirmation system
- Prior experience reading Chest X-rays to confirm PICC placement or malposition
- Current Certification in Vascular Access with peripherally inserted central catheter (PICC) competency, Vascular Access-Board Certified (VA-BC) and/or Certified PICC Ultrasound Inserter (CPUI)
- Active Advanced Life Support (ACLS) certification
- Active Basic Life Support (BLS) certification

Preferred Qualifications

- Prior experience assisting with paracentesis, thoracentesis, lumbar puncture and central venous catheter placement
- Experience with data collection and analysis of procedures
- Certification in clinical area
- Bilingual



Knowledge, Skills, Abilities and Other Characteristics

- Knowledge of relevant Standards of Practice, Professional Guidelines and Regulatory Requirements
- Strong knowledge and understanding of Midline catheter, PICC placement, and Ultrasound-Guided PIV placement.
- Knowledge of sterilization techniques and infection control
- Working knowledge of electronic medical record database
- Working knowledge of Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, Power Point, Access)
- Sufficient organizational skills to manage diverse group of complex patients
- Excellent interpersonal skills to establish and maintain appropriate professional relationships with patients, members of the health care team, and other personnel
- Ability to use a ultrasound for procedural imaging guidance
- Ability to assess information, apply critical thinking to determine course of action, and relay this information to patients, families, and clinical staff
- Ability to provide detailed and appropriate teaching to other clinicians, patients, and families verbally and in writing
- Ability to demonstrate respect and sensitivity for cultural diversity, patients and coworkers of all sexual orientations and gender identities
- Ability to effectively communicate while maintaining HIPPA for protected health information (PHI)
- Strong written and verbal communication
- Ability to function autonomously and as part of a multidisciplinary team
- Ability to see and hear clearly (including with correction)
- Ability to tolerate exposure to unpleasant noise, odor and temperature
- Demonstrate familiarity and proficiency with surgical aseptic technique, universal patient safety precautions
- Play an active role in quality assurance /quality improvement initiatives and clinical research projects, including patient enrollment and data collection.
- Explain risks and benefits of procedures to patient and family when applicable

Physical and Environmental Demands

This position is functioning within a healthcare environment. The incumbent is responsible for adherence to all hospital and department specific safety requirements. This includes but is not limited to the following policies and procedures: complying with Personal Protective Equipment requirements, hand washing and sanitizing practices, complying with department specific engineering and work practice controls and any other work area safety precautions as specified by hospital wide policy and departmental procedures.

The above statements are intended to describe the general nature and level of work being performed by people assigned to this classification. They are not intended to be construed as an exhaustive list of all responsibilities, duties and skills required of the personnel so classified.

For purposes of the American with Disabilities Act, “Typical Duties” are essential job functions.

