

Patient name	
Client name	
Case number	
Breed	
Sex	

## QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT TOOLS & RESOURCES

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### Catheter Care Checklist

Date: Time: Next check due:

Catheter Care Procedure	Completed ✓ or ✗	Staff initials	Comments
1. Appropriate hand hygiene followed before handling patient: (circle method/s used)			
WHO hand washing technique	Povidone-iodine		
Chlorhexidine	Gloves	Other:	
2. Date of insertion	3. Time of insertion		
4. Location of peripheral catheter (e.g. left cephalic vein)			
5. Catheter Gauge			
6. Reason for catheter (e.g. GA, IVFT, chemotherapy)			
7. Details of methods used for catheter site preparation (e.g. clipped, scrubbed, spirit applied)			
8. Ease of insertion of catheter (e.g. first attempt without resistance)			
9. Patient compliance (e.g. minimal restraint required)			
10. Appearance of catheter site and limb prior to insertion: (circle relevant observations)			
Pain	Limb swelling	Pressure sores	
Erythema (reddening of skin)	OK		
11. Catheter flushed with sterile saline/heparin solution?			

Date: Time: Next check due:

12a. Appropriate hand hygiene followed before handling patient: (circle method/s used)			
WHO hand washing technique	Povidone-iodine		
Chlorhexidine	Gloves	Other:	
13a. Appearance of protective bandage (circle relevant observations)			
Wet	Soiled	OK	
14a. Any patient interference, chewed?			
15a. Details of catheter site and limb: (circle relevant observations)			
Pain	Limb swelling	Pressure sores	
Erythema (reddening of skin)	OK		
16a. Catheter flushed with sterile saline/heparin solution?			
17a. Injection port cleaned with surgical spirit? (if applicable)			
18a. Review of necessity – does the patient still need the catheter?			
19a. Catheter removed? Reason for removal			

Date: Time: Next check due:

12b. Appropriate hand hygiene followed before handling patient: (circle method/s used)			
WHO hand washing technique	Povidone-iodine		
Chlorhexidine	Gloves	Other:	
13b. Appearance of protective bandage (circle relevant observations)			
Wet	Soiled	OK	
14b. Any patient interference, chewed?			
15b. Details of catheter site and limb: (circle relevant observations)			
Pain	Limb swelling	Pressure sores	
Erythema (reddening of skin)	OK		
16b. Catheter flushed with sterile saline/heparin solution?			
17b. Injection port cleaned with surgical spirit? (if applicable)			
18b. Review of necessity – does the patient still need the catheter?			
19b. Catheter removed? Reason for removal			

### How to use the peripheral venous catheter care checklist:

The checklist consists of quality indicators which are to be repeated on a regular basis as proscribed by a veterinary professional. Each patient with an intravenous catheter should be assigned a separate checklist.

The veterinary nurse or veterinary surgeon caring for the patient should complete each intervention and record their findings on the checklist provided. This can then be used as a tool for communicating between staff any problems with the catheter. It can also be used to collect data on the interventions completed.

### Benefit of using the peripheral venous catheter care checklist:

Although intravenous catheter insertion has become common practice, breaking the skin barrier alters the hosts' defences against infection, which increases the risk of local infection or bacteraemia with more serious complications such as septicaemia. This causes concern for patient safety.

The peripheral venous catheter care checklist will help to increase patient safety. It consists of 14 quality indicators, repeated at regular intervals hours over a determined period. This timing allows for objective assessment of clinical performance for insertion and management of the peripheral intravenous catheters. For example, appropriate hand hygiene followed before handling the patient, appearance of catheter insertion site and timely removal of the catheter are some of the interventions.

### About the author:

Sarah Hancill qualified as a veterinary nurse in 2011 from the Royal Veterinary College, London. This checklist was designed as part of the RCVS Knowledge Grants Programme.

### Disclaimer:

RCVS Knowledge provides resources to help inform the veterinary profession. This document is an example of tool that can assist in the provision of veterinary care. It does not override the responsibility of the practitioner. Informed decisions should be made by considering such factors as individual clinical expertise and judgement along with patient's circumstances and owners' values.