

Southern Illinois Regional EMS System

II-2 MONITORING THE PATENCY OF IV'S

Purpose:

- To establish guidelines to monitor the patency of a peripheral, central, or intraosseous IV to provide a route for replacement of fluids, electrolytes, blood products, or to provide a lifeline for administration of medications. Necessary equipment should be readily available in the event an IV must be discontinued and another IV established.

Equipment needed:

- Gloves and additional PPE as necessary
- Intravenous cannula sized to patient and condition
- IV fluids
- Infusion set
- Extension set
- Antiseptic cleansing solution (alcohol prep pads)
- Sterile dressing
- IV securing device, either:
 - Adhesive tape cut into strips
 - Commercial IV securing device
- Tourniquet

Monitoring

- When fluids are hanging
 - Monitor for signs of infiltration
 - Hematoma at the IV site
 - Cool feel to the extremity near IV site
 - Complaint of pain or discomfort
 - Drip rate decreasing or stopping
 - Blood backing up into administration set
- When a site is secured with an extension set, lock.
 - Monitor for signs of infiltration
 - Hematoma at the IV site
 - Complaint of pain or discomfort
 - Blood backing up into extension/lock set