

REFERENCE DOCUMENT

Community Adult Flushing and Vascular Access Maintenance Protocol for Central Venous Access Devices (CVAD) and Peripheral Intravenous Catheters (PIVC)

	Solution	Volume	Frequency	Dressing Change	Technique
Peripheral	Normal Saline	3-5 mL	Before and after each use or every 24 hours when not in use	As needed	Turbulent*
Midline	Normal Saline	10-20 mL	Before and after each use or every 24 hours when not in use	Every 7 days or as needed	Turbulent*
Central Line e.g. Hickman / Peripherally Inserted Central Catheter (PICC)	Normal Saline	10-20 mL	Before and after each use or every 7 days when not in use	Every 7 days or as needed Gauze: Every 48 hours or as needed	Turbulent*
Implanted Port e.g. port-a-cath	Normal Saline	10-20 mL	Before and after each use or every 4 weeks when not in use	Gripper change every 7 days when in use	Turbulent* and lock**
Note: Service provider nurses will use their clinical judgement when flushing lines with fluid volumes between 10-20mL of normal saline, considering the type/size of catheter, patient profile, and type of infusion therapy. *Turbulent flushing should include a push-pause technique using a 0.9% preservative free sodium chloride pre-filled syringe. ** Heparin (or other locking solution) will only be administered/instilled if ordered by prescriber.					

References:

Canadian Vascular Access Association (2024). *Canadian Vascular Access and infusion Therapy Guidelines*. 2nd edition. Pembroke, ON: Pappin Communications.

Infusion Nurses Society. (2024). *Infusion nursing standards of practice*. Journal of Infusion Nursing, 39(1Suppl), S1–S156.