

Securement of a Peripheral Intravenous Line

Catheters must be stabilized for easy monitoring and evaluation of the access site, to promote delivery of therapy, and to prevent damage, dislodgement, or migration of the catheter ([Infusion Nurses Society, 2011](#); [Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario, 2008](#)).

To maintain the integrity of the IV line, adequate protection of the site is required. The catheter hub is firmly secured at the puncture site with a transparent dressing and commercial securement device (e.g., StatLock) ([Fig. 20-16](#)) or clear nonallergenic tape. Transparent dressings are ideal because the insertion site is easily observed. Minimal tape should be used at the puncture site and on about 1 to 2 inches of skin beyond the site to avoid obscuring the insertion site for early detection of infiltration.

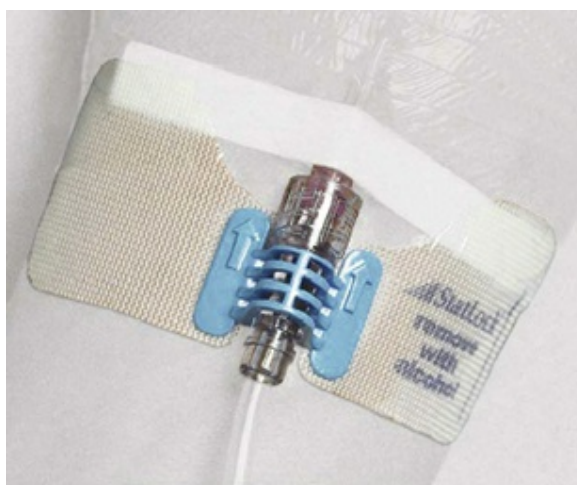


FIG 20-16 StatLock securement devices enhance peripheral intravenous (PIV) line dwell time and decrease phlebitis.

A protective cover is applied directly over the catheter insertion site to protect the infusion site. Easy access to the IV site for frequent (hourly) assessments must be considered ([Infusion Nurses Society, 2011](#)). Improvised plastic cups that are cut in half with the ridged edges covered with tape should not be used because they have injured patients. A commercial site protector, I.V. House, is available in different sizes ([Fig. 20-17](#)). Its ventilation holes prevent moisture from accumulating under the dome. This device is