

Emergencies Involving Indwelling Central Lines



History

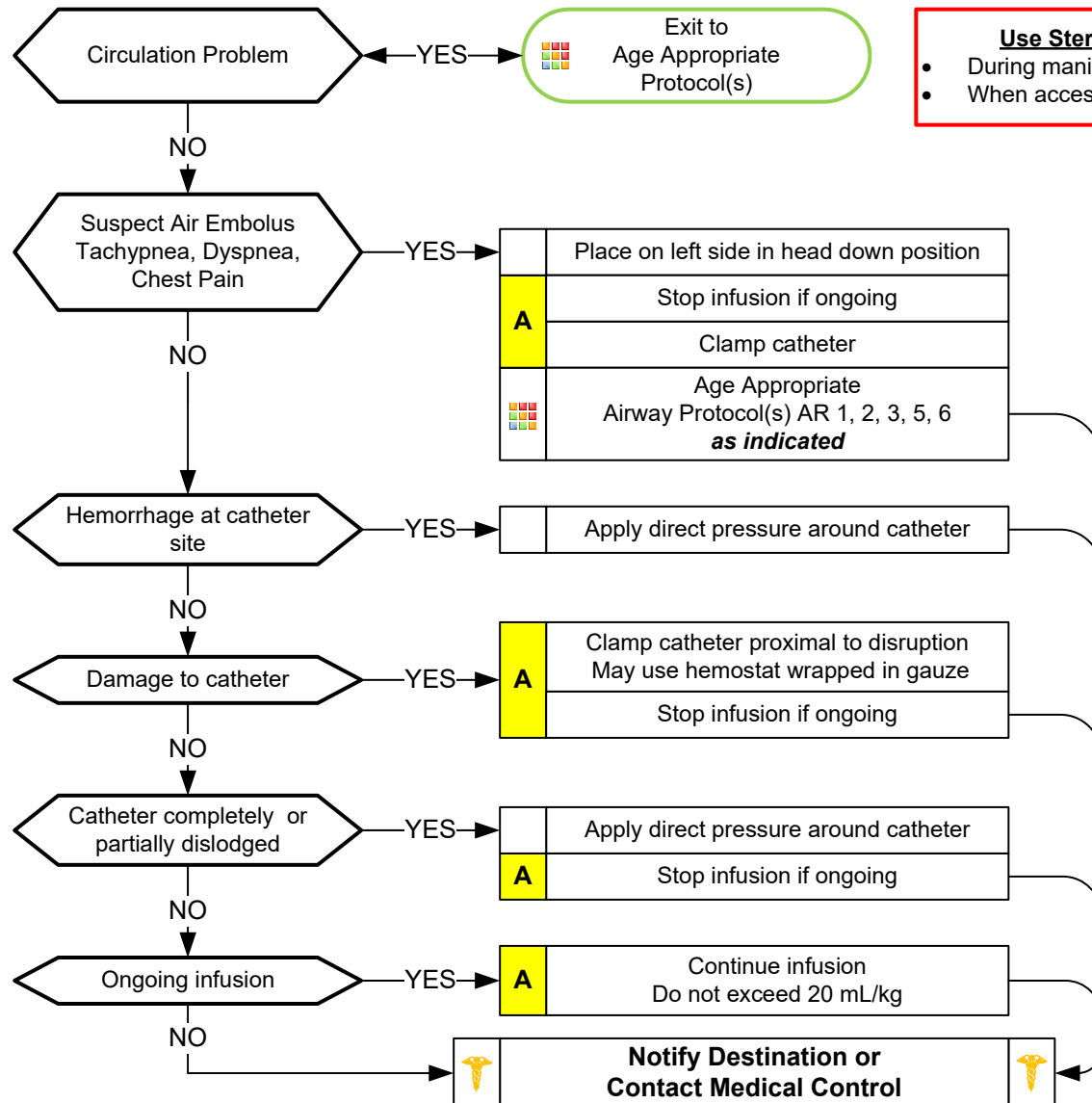
- * Central Venous Catheter Type
 - * Tunneled Catheter (Broviac / Hickman)
 - * PICC (peripherally inserted central catheter)
 - * Implanted catheter (Mediport / Hickman)
- * Occlusion of line
- * Complete or partial dislodge
- * Complete or partial disruption

Signs and Symptoms

- * External catheter dislodgement
- * Complete catheter dislodgement
- * Damaged catheter
- * Bleeding at catheter site
- * Internal bleeding
- * Blood clot
- * Air embolus
- * Erythema, warmth or drainage about catheter site indicating infection

Differential

- * Fever
- * Hemorrhage
- * Reactions from home nutrient or medication
- * Respiratory distress
- * Shock



Universal Protocol Section

Pearls

- * **Always involve family/ caregivers as they may have specific knowledge and skills related to catheter device.**
- * **Use strict sterile technique when accessing / manipulating an indwelling catheter.**
- * **Cardiac arrest: May access central catheter and utilize if functioning properly.**
- * Do not attempt to force catheter open if occlusion evident.
- * Some infusions may be detrimental to stop. Ask family or caregiver if it is appropriate to stop or change infusion.
- * Hyperalimentation infusions (IV nutrition): If stopped for any reason monitor for hypoglycemia.