

Guideline for CVC placement by Advanced Critical Care Practitioners within NHS Lothian

A Central Venous Catheter (CVC) should only be placed by an Advanced Critical Care Practitioner (ACCP) within NHS Lothian when the following criteria are met:

- The decision for central venous access is made by a senior doctor (Consultant, advanced trainee in Intensive Care Medicine, post-fellowship Anaesthetic trainee).
- There is an agreement from a senior doctor that the patient is suitable for CVC placement by an ACCP.
- There is an agreement from the ACCP that the patient is suitable for them to obtain central venous access.
- The ACCP has completed in-house training including supervised practice and being signed off as having met basic competencies in CVC placement.
- The internal jugular approach with ultrasound guidance will be used.
- The patient should be physiologically stable.

CVC placement by an ACCP is not appropriate in the following circumstances:

- The presence of significant coagulopathy.
- Anticipated difficult anatomy including morbid obesity.
- Patients with significant intracranial hypertension.
- Patients with acute liver failure.
- Any other anticipated significant difficulty.

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