Focus on caring for a patient with a peripheral venous catheter

**KEY ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR PERIPHERAL VENOUS CATHETER**

1. **Indication:** Ensure that a peripheral venous catheter is indicated. Remove the catheter when no longer necessary / clinically indicated.
   2.1 Prepare clean skin with an antiseptic (70% alcohol, tincture of iodine, an iodophor, or alcohol-based 2% chlorhexidine gluconate) before catheter insertion.
   2.2 Wear clean, non-sterile gloves and apply an aseptic procedure (with non-touch technique) for catheter insertion, removal, and blood sampling.
   2.3 Replace any dry gauze-type dressings every 2 days.
   2.4 Consider scheduled catheter change every 96 hours.
   2.5 Change tubing used to administer blood, blood products, chemotherapy, and fat emulsions within 24 hours of infusion start. Consider changing all other tubing every 96 hours.

2. **Insertion / maintenance / removal**
   2.1 Prepare clean skin with an antiseptic (70% alcohol, tincture of iodine, an iodophor, or alcohol-based 2% chlorhexidine gluconate) before catheter insertion.
   2.2 Wear clean, non-sterile gloves and apply an aseptic procedure (with non-touch technique) for catheter insertion, removal, and blood sampling.
   2.3 Replace any dry gauze-type dressings every 2 days.
   2.4 Consider scheduled catheter change every 96 hours.

3. **Monitoring:** Record time and date of catheter insertion, removal and dressing change, and condition (visual appearance) of catheter site every day.

*Based on the ‘WHO hand hygiene improvement approach’ posters, URL: http://www.who.int/entity/gpsc/5may/EN_PSP_GPSC1_5May_2015/en/index.html © World Health Organization 2015. All rights reserved.*