PURPOSE:

To safely and consistently administer heparin flush to maintain patency of central IV’s and if there is a physician order for heparin flush per protocol, for peripheral IVs.

POLICY:

Heparin flush will be administered per physician or nurse practitioner’s order. In the absence of a specific order, heparin flush will be administered per the following protocol:

**NICU:**
Peripheral lines, PICC and CVC (excluding UAC or UVC):
Heparin flush 2units/ml, 0.5 ml IV after medications and every 3-4 hours PRN.

**OTHERS:**
Peripheral lines:
Heparin flush 10units/ml, 1 ml IV after medications, no more frequently than every 4 hours. All other flushes with 1ml 0.9% normal saline every 6 hours.

Central Venous Catheters (single, double, triple lumen, Hickmans, Broviacs, PICC lines, Midline Catheter, Midclavicular Catheter):
- **Patients who weigh 10kg or less:** Heparin 10 unit/ml, 1ml or volume of catheter, daily for all heplocked lumens and after each intermittent medication not flushing with heparin more than 6 times daily.
- **Patients who weigh more than 10kg:** Heparin flush 100units/ml, 3ml daily for all heplocked lumens and after each intermittent medication not flushing with heparin more than 6 times daily. All other flushes with 0.9% normal saline.
**Implanted Ports:**
Heparin 100 units/ml, 3 ml daily for heplocked ports, after each intermittent medication (no more than every 4 hours or 6 times daily), and monthly if port is not being used more frequently.

**Pheresis and Hemodialysis Catheters:**
- Heparin 1000 units/ml; amount to instill in each lumen is written on catheter.
- Label catheters, with high heparin concentration, with concentration and amount instilled in each lumen.
- To avoid giving the patient a bolus of high-concentration heparin, ALWAYS withdraw and discard heparin prior to infusing any medication or fluids.
- Heparin flush is to be removed and replaced every 3 days unless lumens are infusing IVF.
- If unable to withdraw heparin due to catheter occlusion, notify physician for further instructions.

**NOTE:** Nursing Consideration - Monitor the 24 hour heparin dose administered following intermittent medication administration.
May use Central Venous Catheter: Restoration of Patency, PS 011, Attachment A, for device volumes.

**DEFINITIONS:**
- Mid Clavicular Lines – Tip placement mid clavicular
- Midline Catheter- Tip placement of axilla.
- PICC- Peripheral Inserted Central Catheter – tip placement at superior vena cava. Requires confirmation by radiology before use.

**REFERENCE:**
- Standard 54 – Cannula Placement – midline
- Standard 55 – PICC
- Standard 61 – Patency Flushing

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