

## **Hepatic Arterial Catheter Removal: A Performance Improvement Initiative**

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**Problem:** Hepatic Arterial Catheters (HAC) deliver regional high-dose chemotherapeutics into the liver, and patients with HACs must refrain from hip flexion and lower extremity movement until its removal. Therefore, any delay in removal prolongs the patient's discomfort, time to ambulation and risk for pressure ulcers. To improve the quality of care, the physicians asked nursing to expand their scope of practice (SOP) to remove HACs. Any practice change must be evidence-based to assure the delivery of safe, competent and quality care, while being concordant with Texas Medical and Nurse Practice Acts (NPA).

**Evidence:** The literature search, listserv, consult with nursing organizations and Texas Medical and Nursing Boards (TBON) resulted in a dearth of evidence supporting the procedure as within the scope of practice. Therefore, the procedure could be deemed a delegated medical act. TBON recognizes nursing practice as dynamic and that acts considered today as delegated medical acts may in the future be considered within the scope of professional nursing practice.

**Strategy:** The team implemented the performance improvement initiative to provide a safe and supportive environment for patients, nurses and physicians. Following TBON's criteria, the initiative comprised development of educational and competency components, development of facility and unit policies and procedures, implementation of a nursing and medical back-up plan, and outcomes measurement.

**Practice Change:** Nurses are authorized to remove HACs as a delegated medical act.

**Evaluation:** Chemotherapy regimen, total placement time, platelet count, compression time, complications and rates, time to ambulation, pain and comfort levels, pain/anxiolytic medication use, patient and staff satisfaction, and nurse confidence will be reported on a data collection form.

**Results:** The initiative is currently being instituted and results will be available in December 2008.

**Recommendations:** Expanding the scope of nursing practice must involve a systematic and evidence-based approach that is concordant with relevant practice acts.

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