

Job Description of a Vascular Access Specialist

Assess patients for the need of a mid to long term vascular access device (VAD).

Goal: Recognize patients who need a mid to long term VAD at the onset of therapy therefore providing a reliable device

- Assess patients with difficult access for appropriate VAD need
- Assess patients by admission printout, pharmacy printout for mid to long term vascular access device (VAD's) candidates (mornings daily)
- Round on units to find patients via clinical staff who may need a mid to long term VAD's
- Work with Case Management to identify patients who may need mid to long term VAD's
- Assist Case Management with early discharge of infusion patients to alternate sites.
- Contact physicians for medical orders to discuss placement of a mid to long term VAD

Place and assist in maintaining the appropriate VAD or refer placement to a the radiology or operating room

- Place peripherally inserted central lines
- Troubleshoot difficult complications of VAD's or assist staff in troubleshooting
- Declot VAD's or assist staff as a resource in dec clotting
- Place difficult peripheral catheters or assist staff as a resource in dec clotting
- Obtain patient consent for PICC line placement
- Provide patient teaching regarding to PICC line care and maintenance

Provide resource education to staff on VAD's.

- Write policies and procedures related to VAD insertion and care and maintenance
- Provide staff education on VAD care and management
- Provide staff education on VAD complication management
- Provide physician education and consultative service to physicians on VAD's

Administrative duties related to VAD's

- Monitor all vascular access device outcomes and present at QA quarterly
- Perform yearly performance improvement project related to VAD's
- Maintain knowledge and competency level with seminars, magazines, books related to infusion therapy
- Evaluate all new VAD products introduced to the hospital and train staff on usage

Job Qualifications

- Competency in the placement of peripheral catheters
- High level skills in critical thinking and assessment related to vascular access device selection
- Ability to work independently
- Willingness to learn new techniques including the usage of Modified Seldinger Technique with a wire and scalpel and portable ultrasound
- Excellent communication and teaching skills
- High level clinical communication skills with physicians and other clinical staff
- Willingness to maintain and improve knowledge level related to vascular access with seminars, magazines, books