Table 5 Assessing the Catheter and Infusion System

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|  |  |
| O = Observe | The fluid container and sets for * Appropriate fluid level
* Correct flow rate
* Complete connections

The insertion site for* All signs for complications
* Adherence of dressing
 |
| P = Palpate | The insertion site for * Alteration in skin temperature
* Induration or cording of the vein
 |
| A = Aspirate | The catheter for * A free-flowing blood return, followed by injection of normal saline to assess for resistance
 |
| L = Listen | To the patient for complaints of* Pain, burning, stinging, and other strange sensations
* Along the entire catheter pathway
* Chest discomfort with all types of central venous catheters
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