

Table 5 Assessing the Catheter and Infusion System

<p>O = Observe</p>	<p>The fluid container and sets for</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appropriate fluid level • Correct flow rate • Complete connections <p>The insertion site for</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All signs for complications • Adherence of dressing
<p>P = Palpate</p>	<p>The insertion site for</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alteration in skin temperature • Induration or cording of the vein •
<p>A = Aspirate</p>	<p>The catheter for</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A free-flowing blood return, followed by injection of normal saline to assess for resistance
<p>L = Listen</p>	<p>To the patient for complaints of</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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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