



**REGION 11  
CHICAGO EMS SYSTEM  
PROCEDURE**

Title: Alternate Vascular Sites for Patients in Extremis
Section: Medication Administration/Access
Approved: EMS Medical Directors Consortium
EMS Level: ALS

## **ALTERNATE VASCULAR SITES FOR PATIENTS IN EXTREMIS**

### INDICATIONS

- Cardiac arrest
- Severely unstable patient
- To access indwelling lines (PIC, Hickman, etc.), fistulas, or shunts when other sites not readily accessible

### CONTRAINDICATIONS

- No blood return on access
- Known infection in line

### EQUIPMENT

- 5 ml sterile saline in 10 ml syringe
- Alcohol wipes
- Sterile gloves
- 19 gauge straight needle 1" (for heparin caps)

### PROCEDURE FOR SITES WITH HEPARIN CAP

1. Identify type of site and assess proper needle usage (1" needle would be the best as a 1.5" needle may puncture the catheter).
2. Use sterile gloves.
3. Wipe site with alcohol.
4. Attempt aspiration of blood. If blood return, attach IV tubing.
5. No blood aspirated, proceed to gently flush with 5 ml of sterile saline (if any resistance is met, stop procedure), if no resistance attach IV tubing.
6. Remove syringe barrel leaving needle in place and insert IV tubing tip; tape in place.
7. Regulate drip rate.
8. Inject drugs as needed through IV tubing parts.