CDC Catheter Guidance

Appendix B

Summary of Recommended Frequency of Replacements for Catheters, Dressings, Administration Sets, and Fluids

Catheter	Replacement and relocation of device	Replacement of catheter site dressing	Replacement of administration sets	Hang time for parenteral fluids
Peripheral venous catheters	**In *adults*, replace catheter and rotate site no more frequently than every 72–96 hours. Replace catheters inserted under emergency basis and insert a new catheter at a different site within 48 hours. In *pediatric* patients, do not replace peripheral catheters unless clinically indicated.**	Replace dressing when the catheter is removed or replaced, or when the dressing becomes damp, loosened, or soiled. Replace dressings more frequently in diaphoretic patients. In patients who have large bulky dressings that prevent palpation or direct visualization of the catheter insertion site, remove the dressing and visually inspect the catheter at least daily and apply a new dressing.	Replace intravenous tubing, including add-on devices, no more frequently than at 72-hour intervals unless clinically indicated. Replace tubing used to administer blood, blood products, or lipid emulsions within 24 hours of initiating the infusion. *No recommendation* for replacement of tubing used for intermittent infusions. Consider short extension tubing connected to the catheter to be a portion of the device. Replace such extension tubing when the catheter is changed.	*No recommendation* for the hang time of intravenous fluids, including nonlipid-containing parenteral nutrition fluids. Complete infusion of lipid-containing parenteral nutrition fluids (e.g., 3-in-1 solutions) within 24 hours of hanging the fluid. Complete infusion of lipid emulsions alone within 12 hours of hanging the fluid. Complete infusions of blood products within 4 hours of hanging the product.
Midline catheters	***No recommendation* for the frequency of the catheter replacement.**	As above.	As above.	As above.
Peripheral arterial catheters	**In *adults*, do not replace catheters routinely to prevent catheter-related infection. In *pediatric* patients, *no recommendation* for the frequency of catheter replacement. Replace disposable or reusable transducers at 72-hour intervals. Replace continuous flush device at the time the transducer is replaced.**	Replace dressing when the catheter is replaced, or when the dressing becomes damp, loosened, or soiled, or when inspection of the site is necessary.	Replace the intravenous tubing at the time the transducer is replaced (i.e., 72-hour intervals).	Replace the flush solution at the time the transducer is replaced (i.e., 72-hour intervals).
Central venous catheters including peripherally inserted central catheters and hemodialysis catheters	**Do not routinely replace catheters.**	Replace gauze dressings every 2 days and transparent dressings every 7 days on short-term catheters. Replace the dressing when the catheter is replaced, or when the dressing becomes damp, loosened, or soiled, or when inspection of the site is necessary.	Replace intravenous tubing and add-on devices no more frequently than at 72-hour intervals. Replace tubing used to administer blood products or lipid emulsions within 24 hours of initiating the infusion.	*No recommendation* for the hang time of intravenous fluids, including nonlipid-containing parenteral nutrition fluids. Complete infusions of lipid-containing fluids within 24 hours of hanging the fluid.
Pulmonary artery catheters	**Do not replace catheter to prevent catheter-related infection.**	As above.	As above.	As above.
Umbilical catheters	**Do not routinely replace catheters.**	Not applicable.	Replace intravenous tubing and add-on devices no more frequently than at 72-hour intervals. Replace tubing used to administer blood products or lipid emulsions within 24 hours of initiating the infusion.	*No recommendation* for the hang time of intravenous fluids, including nonlipid-containing parenteral nutrition fluids. Complete infusion of lipid-containing fluids within 24 hours of hanging the fluid. Includes nontunneled catheters, tunneled catheters, and totally implanted devices.

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta.