



Extravasation Management Patient Information

Name: _____ Phone #: _____

Date & Time of incident: _____

Incident occurred at (facility/unit): _____

What is extravasation?

Extravasation is the leakage (or accidental infiltration) of drugs outside of the vein and into the surrounding tissues. This can lead to an immediate painful reaction, and may with some drugs result in local tissue damage. You may have notice pain, stinging, swelling or other changes to the skin at the site of drug administration, or the nurse may have noticed that the drug was not flowing in easily.

Why did this happen?

Extravasation is a rare but known complication of intravenous therapy. It is impossible to prevent this even though we take all possible precautions. The important thing is that it has been detected and treated.

Why is extravasation a problem?

It can lead to pain, stiffness and tissue damage.

What treatment have I received to prevent tissue damage?

The health care provider has given you the recommended treatment for extravasation. Although this will help to minimize the chance of developing further problems, you will need to keep checking the area every day.

Checking the area

Once a day, check the area for the following:

- Has the area changed color or increased in redness?
- Is the area blistering, peeling or flaking?
- Is the area more uncomfortable?
- Is the pain making it difficult for you to exercise the arm or hand?

What else do I need to do?

- Gently exercise the affected arm or hand.
- Take mild painkillers if required.
- Do not apply any other lotions, creams or ointments unless you have been instructed to do so by your health care provider.
- Do not expose the area to strong sunlight.
- Avoid wearing tight clothing around the affected area.
- Protect the affected area when bathing (or having a shower) so that it does not get wet.

When should I contact you?

If you answered YES to any of the questions in the checklist above, or if you have any other concerns, then you should contact your health care provider.

Your health care provider is a knowledgeable practitioner who will guide you through every detail of treatment and may contact you on a regular basis to monitor your extravasation. Although it is very important you monitor the area each day to prevent further complications.

Follow-up appointments (if applicable):

Date	Time