National Pediatric Nighttime Curriculum
Summary of Peripheral IV Infiltrations

A. Definitions

a. Infiltration = leak of fluid into extravascular tissue
b. Extravasation = infiltration of a vesicant
c. Vesicant = agent that causes blistering and/or tissue damage
d. Irritant = agent that triggers histamine release, associated with increased risk of phlebitis
e. *Always* refer to your local institution formulary to determine if the infusion is a vesicant or an irritant

B. INS (International Nursing Society) Infiltration Scale

Stage	Clinical Criteria
0	**No symptoms**
1	Skin blanched Cool to touch Edema < 2.5 cm +/- pain
2	Skin blanched Cool to touch Edema 2.5 cm – 15 cm +/- pain
3	Skin blanched, translucent Cool to touch Edema > 6 in Mild to moderate pain Possible numbness
4	Skinblanched, translucent, tight, leaking, discolored, bruised Edema > 6 in Deep pitted tissue edema Impaired circulation Moderate to severe pain Infiltration of ANY blood product, irritant, or vesicant

C. Management of IV Infiltrations

a. Immediate actions

1. Stop the infusion
2. Disconnect the IV tubing, attach a syringe and attempt to aspirate any residual fluid
3. Determine if infusate is a vesicant or irritant
4. Remove the IV if it is *not* a vesicant
5. Leave the IV in situ if it is a vesicant
6. Describe the site using the INS classification scale
7. Elevate the affected extremity
8. Apply a cool pack
9. Reassess frequently to monitor for progression to Stage 3 or 4

b. Vesicant, Irritant, and Stage 3 or 4 Infiltrations

1. Notify the attending on call
2. Refer to unit or pharmacy protocol for that specific vesicant regarding antidote administration
3. If antidote is *not* indicated, or if infusate is *not* a vesicant, remove the IV
4. Consult Plastic Surgery for assistance with local wound care

D. **Antidotes**

a. Hyaluronidase

1. Administered as subcutaneous injections
2. FDA approved for vincristine and vinblastine extravasations

b. Dexrazoxane

1. Administered via IV, given via the same IV that has infiltrated
2. FDA approved for anthracyline extravasations