

Peripheral Vascular Access



Triage tool

An objective scoring tool to determine whether a peripheral intravenous catheter (PIVC) or an extended dwell catheter (EDC)/midline is the most appropriate vascular access device for IV therapy. **For use when infusate considerations have been decided for peripheral therapy.**

Score of 2 or more: Consider EDC/midline for IV therapy	Score
Duration of IV therapy <5 days	0
Duration of IV therapy 5 to 29 days	1
Grade of peripheral vein assessment is 1 or 2*	1
Grade of peripheral vein assessment is 3 to 5*	2
4 failed attempts with PIVC by 2 practitioners**	2
History of Difficult IV Access (DIVA)***	2

* Refer to peripheral vein assessment tool (UK Vessel Health and Preservation, 2020)

** Make no more than 2 attempts per clinician and limit total attempts to no more than 4 (Gorski et al, 2021)

*** Known difficult IV access patients must be referred to an IV specialist and will require an individualised pathway (Van Loon et al 2019).

Peripheral vein assessment

Suitable vein definition, visible and compressible, 3mm or larger¹

Grade	Number of suitable veins	Insertion management
1	4-5 veins	Insertion by trained competent Healthcare Practitioner (HCP)
2	2-3 veins	
3	1-2 veins	
4	No palpable visible veins	Ultrasound guided cannulation, by trained competent HCP, once only cannulation
5	No suitable veins with ultrasound	Refer for alternative vascular access device

Points to consider

- Select appropriate site and size of catheter needed for therapy
- Ensure staff are adequately trained to insert and care for the device when in situ
- Avoid insertion in areas of flexion
- Documentation and follow up.

¹ UK Vessel Health and Preservation, 2020. Other references are available on request.

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