Appendix A

REMOVAL OF CENTRAL VENOUS CATHETERS

1. A Registered Nurse will remove a central line after obtaining a physician order.
2. Notify physician if patient is receiving anticoagulant medication prior to removal.
3. Inform patient / family of procedure and document in Meditech, under Patient/Family Education.
4. Place patient in Trendelenburg position, if not contraindicated. Turn head to opposite side of central line.
5. Stop fluid infusion, if present.
6. Wash hands. Apply non-sterile gloves, loosen tape and remove dressing.
7. Using aseptic technique, remove suture(s) anchoring the catheter to the skin, if present.
8. If catheter tip or catheter segment culture has been ordered, cleanse the insertion site with alcohol and allow drying prior to removing the catheter.
9. Instruct patient to slowly take a deep breath and slowly breathe out, while the nurse steadily removing catheter.
10. Place gauze at the insertion site and apply pressure for 3-5 minutes. Sit patient up, if possible. Observe for bleeding and inspect the catheter.
11. Notify physician immediately if the catheter is not completely intact upon removal.
12. If culture of the catheter has been ordered, cut the tip or segment using sterile scissors and place in sterile container.
13. Apply gauze, cover with a semipermeable dressing and leave in place for 24 hours.
14. Document date, time and site assessment in the medical record.

Note: If while removing the central venous catheter any resistance is met, immediately stop, apply sterile dressing and notify physician.