

# Emergencies Involving Indwelling Central Lines

## History

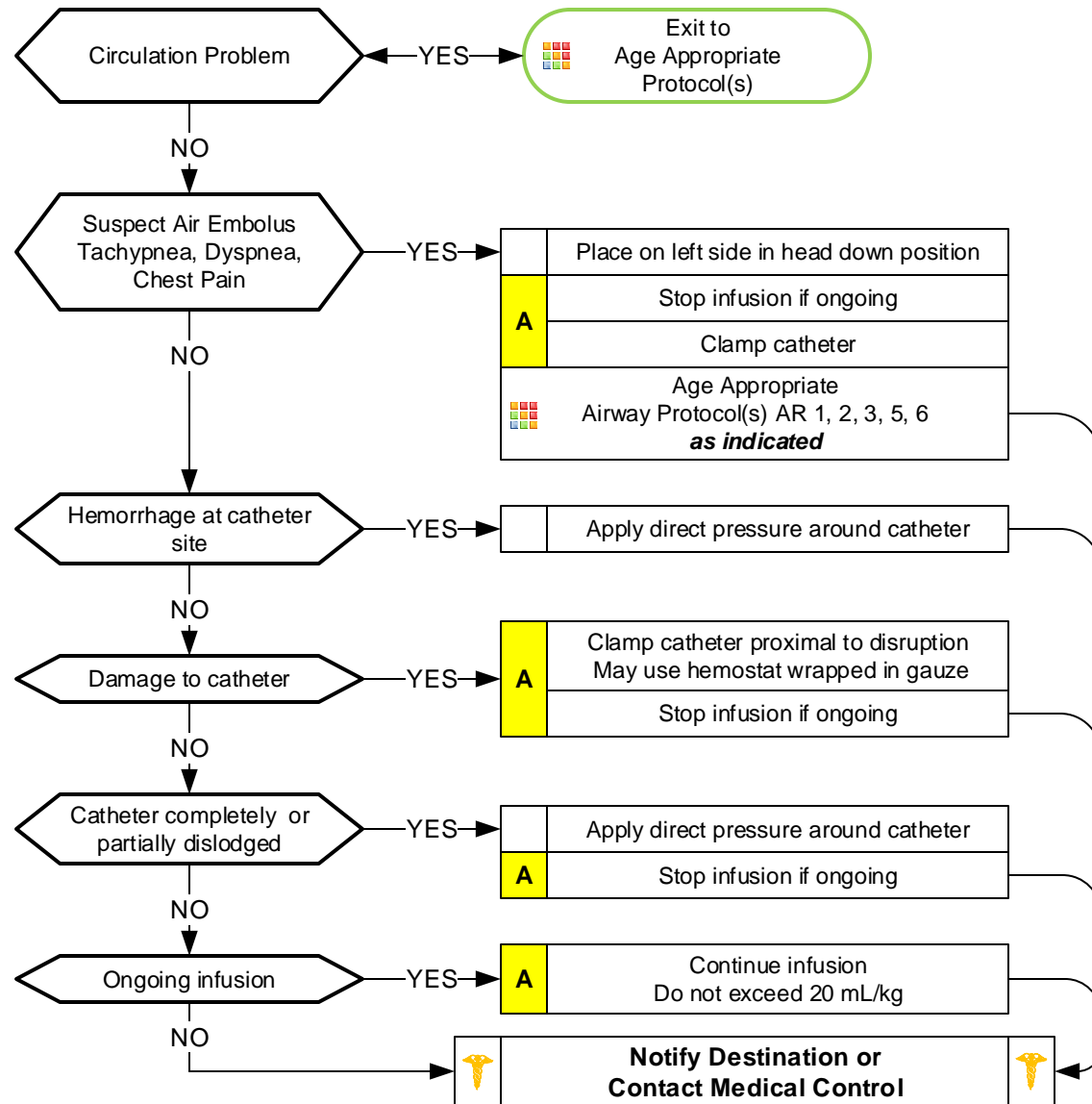
- Central Venous Catheter Type  
Tunneled Catheter (Broviac / Hickman)
- PICC (peripherally inserted central catheter)
- Implanted catheter (Mediport / Hickman)
- Occlusion of line
- Complete or partial dislodge
- Complete or partial disruption

## Signs and Symptoms

- External catheter dislodgement
- Complete catheter dislodgement
- Damaged catheter
- Bleeding at catheter site
- Internal bleeding
- Blood clot
- Air embolus
- Erythema, warmth or drainage about catheter site indicating infection

## Differential

- Fever
- Hemorrhage
- Reactions from home nutrient or medication
- Respiratory distress
- Shock



## Pearls

- **Always talk to family / caregivers as they have specific knowledge and skills.**
- **Use strict sterile technique when accessing / manipulating an indwelling catheter.**
- **Cardiac arrest: May access central catheter and utilize if functioning properly.**
- Do not attempt to force catheter open if occlusion evident.
- Some infusions may be detrimental to stop. Ask family or caregiver if it is appropriate to stop or change infusion.
- Hyperalimentation infusions (IV nutrition): If stopped for any reason monitor for hypoglycemia.