

To Filter or Not to Filter?

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To Filter or Not to Filter?

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An increased risk of phlebitis is related to the infusion of certain caustic medications. Studies have repeatedly shown high incidences of phlebitis in patients receiving amiodarone peripherally. According to recent evidence, in-line filters have proven to be a necessary component when administering amiodarone. This information prompted nurse residents to conduct a retrospective chart review of patients receiving amiodarone therapy. Twenty-seven phlebitis incidents directly related to IV amiodarone infusions without a filter occurred over a three year period on three cardiac units. This presentation details efforts taken to lead a change in practice to improve patient outcomes.

Goal

- Decrease intravenous (IV) phlebitis in patients receiving IV amiodarone.

Process

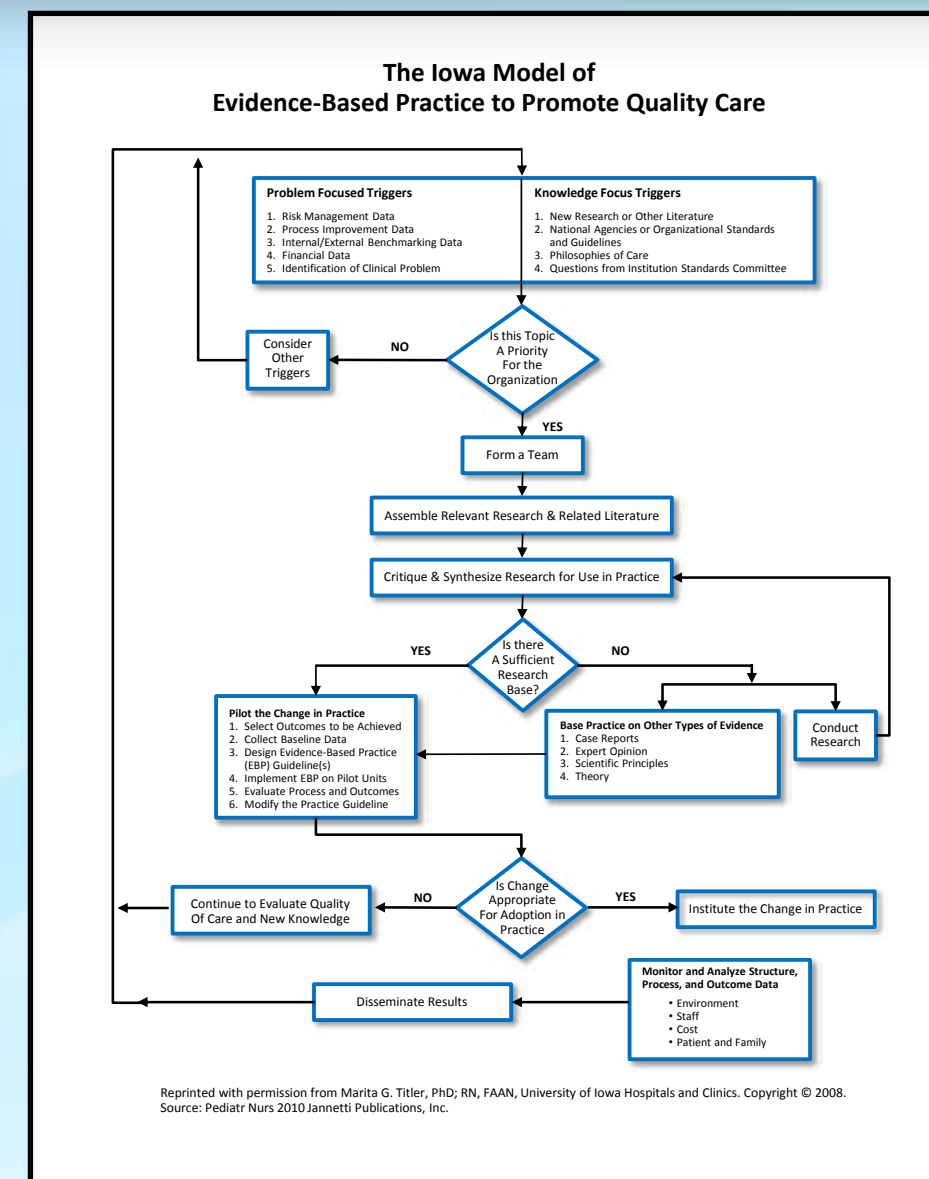
- Educate registered nurses (RNs) on benefits of in-line filter use
- Provide in-line filters for use
- Collect data on filter use and phlebitis incidences
- Analyze data

Benefits



The Iowa Model of Evidence-Based Practice to Promote Quality Care

- Identify Problem
- Develop PICO question
- Complete literature search
- Build evidence table
- Disseminate findings



Outcomes

Two incidents of phlebitis occurred in 32 patients receiving IV amiodarone with an in-line filter during the six month trial period on two cardiac units.

(Note: Both phlebitis incidents occurred in patients with pre-hospital IVs).

Next Steps

- Disseminate results Network-wide.
- Modify practice guidelines to include filter use when administering IV amiodarone.

Lessons Learned

- Individualized education creates buy-in and significantly improves compliance.
- Nurses are receptive to change when results improve patient outcomes.
- A \$1.80 filter has the potential to save patients from discomfort and decrease length of stay and treatment costs.

Conclusion

- In-line filter use can be implemented in any acute care setting where current practice utilizes tubing without a filter to infuse IV amiodarone.

PICO Question

Q. “Does the use of in-line filters reduce the incidence of phlebitis in patients receiving intravenous (IV) amiodarone?”

References:

- Norton, L., Ottoboni, L., Varady, A., Yang-Lu, C., Becker, N., Cotter, T., Wang, P. (2013). Phlebitis in amiodarone administration: Incidence, contributing factors, and clinical implications. *American Journal of Critical Care*, 22(6), 498-505.

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