Safety Newsflash: Retained Guidewires

8 of the 16 NEVER EVENTS (reported over the past 2 years) in the ED are RETAINED GUIDEWIRES following chest drain and central line insertion

NRLS advice

Standardised process for guidewire management during central venous access:

- Two person process (operator and observer)
- Visual confirmation of guidewire removal by both persons
- Verbal communication of guidewire removal by both persons
- Documentary confirmation of guidewire removal by both persons
- Training and education to emphasise appropriate control of guidewires

Checklist

Use of ‘WHO’ type checklist as recommended by National Safety Standards for Invasive Procedures.

1. Immediately before the procedure (includes ‘Sign in’)
   - ‘Time Out’
     - Confirm patient identity
     - Team – allocate roles
     - Procedure
     - Consent
     - Site marked if required
     - Correct proforma used
     - Imaging reviewed
     - Equipment confirmed
     - Monitoring applied
     - Medication prepared
     - Airway assessment
     - Additional Support required
     - Allergies?
     - Coagulopathy?
     - Blood less risk?
     - Retained guidewire risk?

2. Procedure:
   - Repeat ‘Time Out’ if any changes to team or patient

3. After the procedure
   - ‘Sign Out’
     - Has the procedure been recorded?
     - Guidewires/vents/other as accounted for?
     - Have the specimens been labelled and sent?
     - Any equipment problem?
     - Key concerns for continuing care?
     - Do we need to debrief?

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