

**PERIPHERAL IV ACCESS/HEPARIN OR SALINE LOCK  
EMMCO WEST ALS GUIDELINE**

**Criteria:**

- A. Patient in need of fluid administration for volume expansion or medication administration.

**Exclusion Criteria:**

- A. Patient has a functioning peripheral extremity IV.
- B. Patient has an indwelling central venous line and is hemodynamically unstable.

**Procedure:**

- A. **See accompanying flowchart**

**Notes:**

1. After 3 attempts at an IV, contact medical command for guidance in non-critical patients.
2. Unless otherwise specified, use Macro drip tubing (10-20 gtt/ml)
3. Unless otherwise specified, order for IV access in adults is peripheral, external jugular, IO.
4. The ALS practitioner may attempt Jugular and IO if unable to access an IV in a Category 1 trauma patient on unstable/critical medical patient.
5. Document fluid type, size of catheter, site, and any complications on Pa PCR

**Possible Medical Command Orders:**

- A. Jugular and IO access are at the discretion of the MC physician for critical or unstable medical patients.
- B. Category 2 trauma patient: Jugular and IO access at the discretion of the MC physician.
- C. Category 3 trauma patients generally do not need Jugular or IO access if a peripheral IV is not possible.
- D. Unless otherwise specified, order for IV access in adults is peripheral, external jugular, IO.

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Referred from specific protocol

Explain the procedure to the patient whenever possible.  
 Ask about alcohol or betadine allergies.  
 Select appropriate catheter size  
 Prepare tape or commercial adhesive devices and other equipment as necessary  
 Apply tourniquet  
 Palpate suitable vein, distal to proximal  
 Cleanse site appropriately<sup>1</sup>  
 Perform Venipuncture

- Apply traction to vein
- Insert stylett/catheter
- Note flashback
- Advance catheter
- Occlude proximal vein
- Remove stylette

If unsuccessful after 3 attempts

Unstable/critical medical or category 1 trauma patient<sup>1</sup>

Consider patient needs including need for volume replacement

IV

Heparin/Saline Lock

yes

Consider EJ  
Consider IO

Ensure drip chamber and tubing is filled.<sup>2</sup>  
 Attach line  
 Open flow regulator and observe drip chamber for flow  
 Set flow rate  
 Observe for swelling, redness, pain

Attach lock  
 Attach syringe  
 Withdraw slightly, watch for blood  
 Flush with heparin/saline  
 Observe for swelling, redness, pain

no

Contact Medical Command