



School of Nursing, Midwifery and Paramedic Practice

**Venepuncture, Cannulation and
Administration of Intravenous Medicines
in the Undergraduate Nursing Programme**

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)

Venepuncture and Cannulation (V&C)

Question 1: Should nursing students be supervised to practice venepuncture and cannulation (V&C)?

Yes, nursing students need to be given opportunities in their practice learning experiences (PLEs) to safely demonstrate peripheral venepuncture and peripheral venous cannulation (V&C) to meet the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) Future Nurse: Standards of proficiency for registered nurses.

Question 2: At what stage of their programme can nursing students undertake V&C?

Nursing students in Stage 2 can undertake V&C under supervision following completion of theory and practical preparation.

Question 3: I am a Practice Supervisor/Practice Assessor. How do I know if a nursing student has completed the required preparation to undertake V&C?

Nursing students will be issued with a V&C certificate by the School when they have completed theory and practical preparation.

Question 4: I am a nursing student. When will I be issued with my V&C certificate?

When you have completed the required theory and practical preparation, the School will email the V&C certificate to your RGU email address.

Question 5: Who can support and supervise nursing students to undertake V&C?

Nursing students may be supervised and assessed by any registered healthcare professional who is competent in these procedures. For example, registered nursing staff (NMC), operating department practitioners (Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC)) or medical staff (General Medical Council (GMC)).

Question 6: Can nursing students administer 0.9% NaCl to check cannula patency?

Stage 2 nursing students may only use BD PosiFlush™ (which is classed as a medical device) to check cannula patency while supervised by an appropriate healthcare professional (see question 5). Stage 2 nursing students may not check cannula patency with 0.9% NaCl as this would be classed as administration of IV medicines.

However, stage 3 and 4 students can check cannula patency with either BD PosiFlush™ or 0.9% NaCl under direct supervision (see IV drug administration FAQ's below).

IV Drug Administration

Question 1: Should nursing students be administering intravenous medicines?

Yes, nursing students need to be given opportunities in their practice learning experiences (PLEs) to safely demonstrate administration of intravenous (IV) medicines to meet the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) Future Nurse: Standards of proficiency for registered nurses.

Question 2: At what stage of the programme can nursing students be involved in administering IV medication?

This is dependent on the location of the PLE. The following information is correct at time of writing and nursing students, Practice Supervisors (PS) and Practice Assessors (PA) are encouraged to check local policies.

Stage 2 nursing students

Following completion of theory and practical preparation:

Can be involved in the preparation of IV medicines but not act as 2nd checker or administer IV medicines.

Can administer BD PosiFlush™, which is classed as a medical device, under supervision.

Stage 3 and 4 nursing students

Following completion of theory and practical preparation:

Only students attending PLE in NHS Grampian can administer IV medicines under supervision.

Therefore, if the PLE is in another health board* where policies do not support student nurses to administer IV medicines, nursing students will need to safely demonstrate this procedure by simulation.

*Policies in other health boards are currently under review.

Question 3: I am a Practice Supervisor/Practice Assessor. How do I know if a nursing student has completed the required preparation to administer IV medicines?

Please check the nursing student has been issued with a V&C certificate. On the certificate it is noted that the student completed learning and simulated practice of administering an intravenous bolus in Stage 2 so that they could administer BD PosiFlush™.

Question 4: Who can support and supervise nursing students to undertake administration of IV medication?

Nursing students may be supervised and assessed by any registered healthcare professional who is competent in these procedures. For example, registered

nursing staff (NMC), operating department practitioners (Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC)) or medical staff (General Medical Council (GMC)).

Question 5: I am a nursing student. Am I able to administer IV medication through peripherally inserted central catheters (PICCs)?

PICCs are another route for IV medication administration. However, nursing students are not permitted to access any PICCs actively used for chemotherapy.