August 13, 2013

Dear INS Members and Friends;

I have spoken with the Director of Nursing Practice at the Maryland Board of Nursing (MBON). My question to the MBON was if a specially trained PICC RN could put a catheter, other than a PICC line, in the IJ or EJ. The response was that the Infusion Therapy Regulations COMAR 10.27.20:

- Section .06(A) permits the specially trained RN to place a peripheral catheter.
- Section .06(B) permits the specially trained PICC RN to insert, remove and repair PICC lines.
- IJ/EJ PICC line placement - The MBON has determined an Infusion RN specially trained in PICC line placement may place a PICC line in the IJ or EJ. This placement would include inserting a specifically designed catheter which is in essence a short PICC line. “Rather than cutting a full length PICC line to the length required for IJ or EJ placement, one may use the specifically designed short catheter for the IJ or EJ site.” The only difference between these two catheters, ie placing in the arm versus placing in the IJ or EJ, is the length of the catheter itself. In order to insert this short PICC line which is specifically designed for the IJ or EJ, the specifically trained PICC RN would be required to utilize the same technique and same procedure as a PICC line placement in the upper arm.
- Board staff stated the catheter labeling does not have to specifically say “PICC Line” as long as the IJ/EJ catheter only differs in length from a PICC catheter.

Also, the previous letter I sent out concerning IJ/EJ placements which was on MBON letter head, does cover the specially trained Infusion Nurse who is also specially trained in PICC insertions to place catheters in the IJ’s and EJ’s specific to clients needs.

Board staff also explained the MBON interprets and applies regulations. It was explained that not everything can be specifically spelled out in the COMAR regulations.

Hope this helps clarify any lingering questions about IJ/EJ placements. I hope everyone had a great summer and look forward to seeing everyone in Sept.!

Susan A. Cradlin-Klosky CRNI\VAS
President MD INS