

# GA11-014 Resolution

## Resolution Title: Ultrasound-Guided Peripheral Intravenous Access

- 1   Whereas,   Peripheral intravenous cannulation (PIV) is a frequent procedure in emergency department  
2                   patients; and  
3
- 4   Whereas,   Patients with difficult peripheral venous access may undergo multiple attempts to achieve  
5                   intravenous access with resultant delays in diagnosis and treatment, utilization of additional staff  
6                   resources and decreased patient satisfaction; and  
7
- 8   Whereas,   Patients with difficult peripheral venous access may require central venous access which increases  
9                   patient morbidity and mortality as well as health care costs; and  
10
- 11   Whereas,   The utilization of ultrasonography for the placement of peripheral intravenous cannulation is a well  
12                   validated procedure that decreases time to diagnosis and treatment, increases patient satisfaction  
13                   and decreases patient throughput time; and  
14
- 15   Whereas,   There are data to support the ability of emergency nurses to safely and effectively perform  
16                   ultrasound-guided peripheral venous access after appropriate education and training; therefore, be  
17                   it  
18
- 19   *Resolved,*   That the Emergency Nurses Association (ENA) develop an official statement to support the  
20                   inclusion of ultrasound-guided peripheral venous access within the scope of practice of registered  
21                   nurses.  
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### 23 **BOARD COMMENTS:**

24 The ENA board of directors recommends adoption. Developing an official statement that this procedure is within  
25 the scope of practice of emergency nurses may help encourage institutions to train nurses in a procedure that  
26 promotes safe practice and patient comfort.

### 27 28 **RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE COMMENTS:**

29 The ENA Resolutions Committee supports adoption of this proposal.

### 30 31 **RESOLUTION BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

32 Peripheral intravenous cannulation is a common procedure for patients in the emergency department.  
33 Obtaining PIV access in patients with obesity, shock, dehydration, extremes of age, vascular pathologies,  
34 chronic illness, a history of intravenous drug use or a history of multiple previous cannulations can be difficult  
35 even for the experienced nurse.<sup>1,2</sup> Patients with difficult peripheral access often undergo multiple venipunctures,  
36 which may include blind attempts to access a vein based on knowledge of “normal” anatomy. Failed attempts to  
37 obtain access may result in patient dissatisfaction, deterioration and/or suffering and culminate in the placement  
38 of a central line. Central line placement can have both immediate and delayed adverse events for patients  
39 including arrhythmia, pneumothorax, cardiac tamponade, thrombosis, great vessel damage or sepsis.  
40 Additionally, patients with difficult PIV access utilize more staff resources, suffer from delays in diagnosis and  
41 treatment and have decreased satisfaction.<sup>2</sup>

42 The effectiveness of ultrasound to guide the placement of PIV cannulation is well established.<sup>1,3-6</sup> The use of  
43 ultrasonography for peripheral line placement has several benefits including decreasing time to diagnosis and  
44 treatment, decreasing patient throughput time and increased patient and provider satisfaction. Additionally,  
45 patients who undergo peripheral ultrasound guided PIV cannulation are spared from both short-term and long-  
46 term central line adverse events, which increase morbidity, mortality and health care costs.<sup>2</sup>

47 Multiple evidenced-based articles validate the competency of the emergency nurse in the use of the  
48 ultrasonography for PIV cannulation.<sup>2,3,7,8</sup> Research has demonstrated that emergency nurses performing  
49 ultrasonography for PIV cannulation have placement rates similar to physicians, protect patients from central  
50 lines and decrease the time to diagnosis and treatment.<sup>3,7,8</sup>

### 51 52 **RELATIONSHIP TO ENA PHILOSOPHY AND BYLAWS:**

53 The mission of ENA is to “advocate for patient safety and excellence in emergency nursing practice.” This  
54 resolution serves ENA’s mission by:

- 55 • Defining a standard to serve as a basis for emergency nursing practice;
- 56 • Identifying and disseminating information regarding key trends affecting and pertinent to emergency  
57 nursing; and
- 58 • Advocating for effective patient care.

59  
60 This resolution supports the following beliefs from the ENA Code of Ethics:

- 61 • The emergency nurse acts with compassion and respect for human dignity and the uniqueness of the  
62 individual.
- 63 • The emergency nurse maintains competence within, and accountability for, emergency nursing  
64 practice.
- 65 • The emergency nurse acts to protect the individual when health care and safety are threatened by  
66 incompetent, unethical or illegal practice.
- 67 • The emergency nurse exercises sound judgment in responsibility, delegating and seeking consultation.

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69 ENA's Vision Statement states, "ENA is indispensable to the global emergency nursing community." This  
70 statement would provide support for emergency nurses seeking to implement evidence-based practice changes  
71 to improve care for patients.

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### 73 FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:

74 Development of the statement could be accomplished within the current ENA committee structure. As such, it  
75 would incur no additional expenses.

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### 77 REFERENCES:

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### 107 ADDITIONAL READING AND RESOURCES:

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