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## Infusion: Heparin

## Instructor Information

**Patient Name:** Harrison, Betsy

**Simulation Developer(s):** Melissa Brickner, Bridgett Everett, Debra A. Mosley, Beverly Snyder-Desalles, and Judy Young

**Scenario Purpose:**

- To assist nursing staff to effectively initiate intravenous access and administer antibiotic infusion therapy

**Learner(s):**

- Registered Nurses (RN), Licensed Practical Nurses (LPN), Unlicensed Assistive Personnel (UAP)
- Others as desired, depending on facility protocols
- Recommend no more than 6 learners (3 of which can be observers)

**Time Requirements:**

- Setup: 5 minutes
- Scenario: 25 minutes
- Debrief: 25 minutes
- Reset/Breakdown: 5 minutes

**Confederate(s):**

- Clerk
- Dr. Santana – via telephone
- Family member

**Scenario Prologue:**

- Sixty-five (65) year-old female is directly admitted from the outpatient clinic for deep vein thrombosis and Heparin infusion. Patient is s/p right hip fracture with open reduction internal fixation (ORIF) three (3) weeks ago. She just returned from a ten (10) hour car trip. The time is 0700. **The simulation begins when the learners are receiving report from the nurse**

**Patient information:**

- General:** Alert, oriented and calm
- Weight/Height:** 81.8kg (180lbs) 177.8cm (70in)
- Vital Signs:** BP 140/84; Temp 97; HR 92; RR 22; O2 Sat 97%
- Pain:** 5/10 right lower extremity
- Neurological:** Unremarkable
- Respiratory:** Eupneic
- Cardiac:** Unremarkable
- Gastrointestinal:** Unremarkable
- Genitourinary:** Unremarkable
- Musculoskeletal:** Right calf red, swollen, and warm to the touch. Pulses +2 bilaterally.
- Skin:** Redness on calf of right lower extremity
- Past Medical History:** Hypertension, hyperlipidemia, osteoarthritis, right hip fracture d/t fall three (3) weeks ago
- Past Surgical History:** Appendectomy, S/P open reduction internal fixation (ORIF) of the right hip three (3) weeks ago

**Medications:**

- Metoprolol 50mg one time daily
- Simvastatin 40mg in the evening
- Ibuprofen 400mg three times a day for pain

**Allergies:**

- No known drug allergies (NKDA)

■ Green Text Confederate

■ Red Text Physiology Change

## Learning Objectives

**Patient Name:** Betsy Harrison

**Simulation Developer(s):** Melissa Brickner, Bridgett Everett, Debra A. Mosley, Beverly Snyder-Desalles, and Judy Young

**Scenario Purpose:**

- Assist nursing staff members with the initiating and managing Heparin infusion therapy

**Pre-Session Activities:**

- Complete pertinent training on Heparin infusion therapy
- Review any policies and protocols on Heparin infusion therapy

**Potential Systems Explored:**

- When should the healthcare provider anticipate the use of Heparin infusion therapy?
- What standardized protocols currently exist to establish the safe use of Heparin infusion therapy?
- When should the healthcare provider consider stopping a Heparin infusion?
- Which staff members are qualified to initiate Heparin infusion therapy?
- What facility specific documentation is required with Heparin infusion therapy?
- What risk factors, contraindications, and complications are important to consider when caring for the inpatient receiving Heparin Infusion therapy?
- How would the care differ for a patient receiving other types of anticoagulant therapy such as argatroban?

**Scenario Specific Learning Objectives (Knowledge, Skills, and Attitudes = K/S/A):**

\*\*The learner will apply ICARE principles throughout the scenario

**Learning Objective 1:** Initiate Heparin infusion therapy according to protocol

- a. *K- Demonstrate knowledge of Heparin protocol*  
*S- Calculate patient specific bolus and infusion rate utilizing baseline information*
- b. *S- Initiate Heparin bolus and set infusion rate based on baseline assessment and patient information*

**Learning Objective 2:** Monitor Heparin infusion therapy according to protocol

- a. *S- Ensure lab draws are complete according to protocol*
- b. *S- Implement adjustments to Heparin Infusion therapy*
- c. *S- Perform a focused assessment*
- d. *S- Perform the appropriate interventions for the patient experiencing bleeding associated with Heparin infusion therapy*  
*A- Exhibit a sense of urgency while maintaining a composed demeanor*
- e. *S- Implement adjustments to Heparin infusion therapy according to protocol*
- f. *S- Recognize changes in the patient's status*

**Learning Objective 3:** Demonstrate effective communication when caring for the patient receiving Heparin infusion therapy

- a. *S- Perform patient/family teaching*
- b. *S- Prioritize the communication of assessment findings, lab results, and Heparin Infusion therapy to the healthcare provider*
- c. *S- Complete facility specific documentation of actions taken pertaining to Heparin Infusion therapy*

**Debriefing Overview:**

- Ask the learner(s) how they feel after the scenario
- Have the learner(s) provide a summary of the scenario from a healthcare provider/clinical reasoning point of view

- Discuss the scenario and ask the learners what the main issues were from their perspective
- Ask what was managed well and why.
- Ask what they would want to change and why.
- For areas requiring direct feedback, provide relevant knowledge by stating “I noticed you [behavior]...” Suggest the behavior they might want to portray next time and provide a rationale. “Can you share with us?”
- Indicate closing of the debriefing but provide learners with an opportunity to voice one or two take-aways that will help them in future practice
- Lastly, ask for any outstanding issues before closing the debrief

**Critical Actions/Debriefing Points:**

1. Verify orders
2. Perform patient/ family teaching prior to initiating Heparin Infusion protocol
3. Obtain baseline information per Heparin Infusion protocol
4. Perform medication safety check with another RN per Heparin protocol
5. Perform rights of medication administration
6. Ensure antidote is readily available
7. Initiate Heparin therapy with initial bolus according to protocol
8. Assess bleeding lab draw site/blood on sheets and obtain vital signs
9. Stop Heparin Infusion per protocol for bleeding and high aPTT or Anti-Xa result
10. Notify healthcare provider of bleeding and high aPTT or Anti-Xa using ISBAR tool
11. Complete facility specific documentation

## Simulation Set-Up

**Patient Name:** Betsy Harrison

(ALS Mannequin)

**Simulation Developer(s):** Melissa Brickner, Bridgett Everett, Debra A. Mosley, Beverly Snyder-Desalles, and Judy Young

**Room Set-up:**

- Set up like an inpatient room

**Patient Preparation:**

- The patient is wearing a hospital gown
- Saline lock is in place
- At 1330, lab draw site is bleeding and there is blood on the sheets from rectal bleeding (see flowchart)

**Have the following equipment/supplies available:**

- Gloves
- IV catheter
- Saline lock with female luer-lock adapter
- Tape or IV securing device
- Clear occlusive dressing
- IV label
- IV primary tubing (compatible with the pump)
- Male luer-lock adapter
- Bag for Heparin infusion (500mL or 250 mL bag)
- Medication label for Heparin
- Bloody 2x2 dressing for lab draw site (the family member will discretely apply at 1:30)
- Simulated blood in a small container or ziplock bag (the family member will discretely empty contents on the pad under patient at 1:30)
- IV pump

**Medications:**

- Heparin infusion  
\*\*Calibration will be required if using radiofrequency identification (RFID)

Note: 5.8 Simpad software update is required to load scenarios

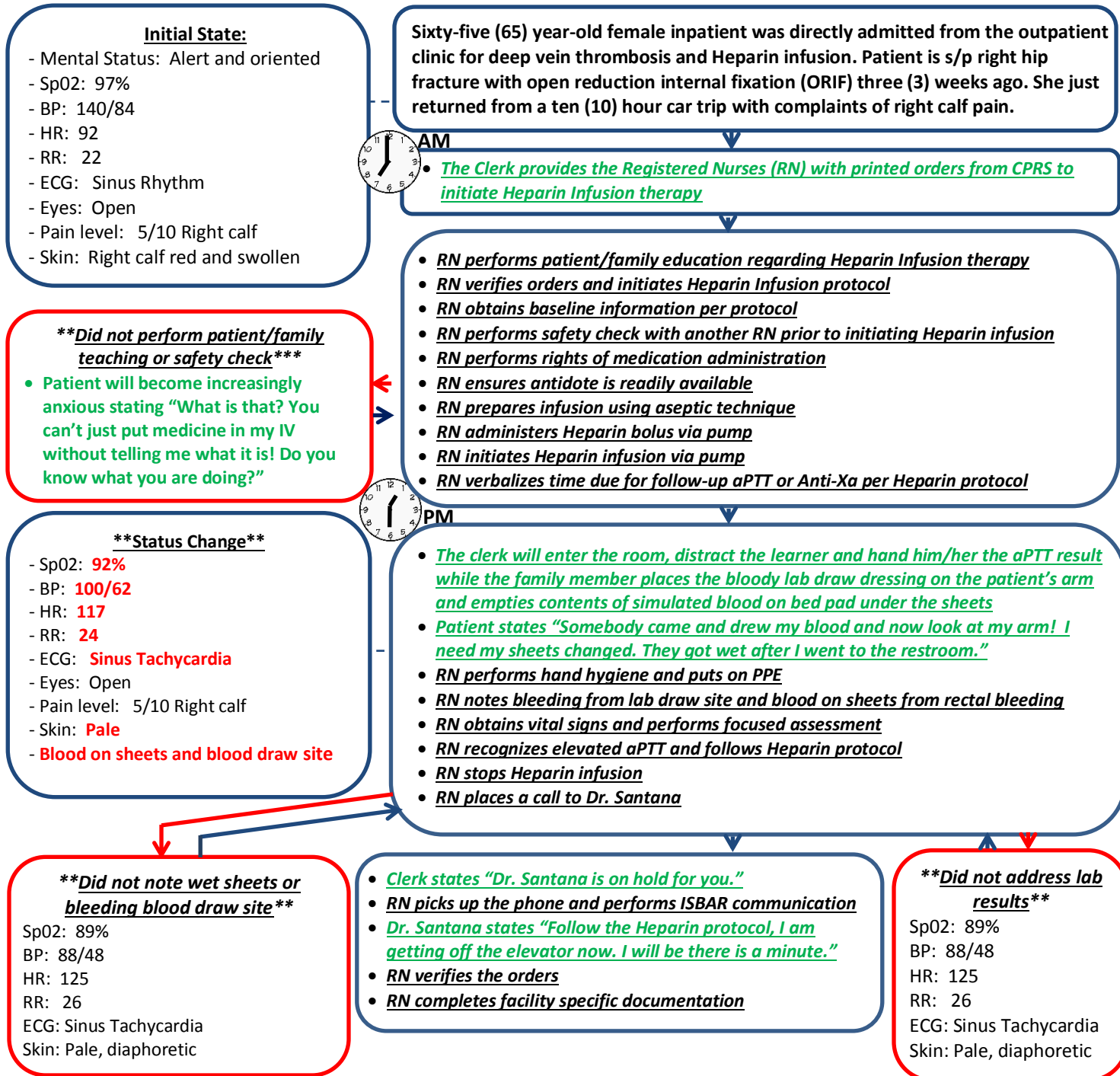
(<http://cdn.laerdal.com/downloads/f4343/simpad-upgrade.vs2>)

Scenarios may be used with Laerdal or LLEAP software

**Scenario Supplements:**

- Confederate scripts
- Confederate name tags
- Patient Identification Band
- Medication label for Heparin infusion (facility specific-example provided)
- Nurse Driven Heparin Protocol (pages 1 and 2)
- PTT results
- Heparin protocol (facility specific-example provided)
- ZZ test patient/Demo patient in CPRS (if desired)

Flowchart



**Critical Actions/Debriefing Points:**

- Verify orders
- Perform patient/ family teaching prior to initiating Heparin Infusion protocol
- Obtain baseline information per Heparin Infusion protocol
- Perform medication safety check with another RN per Heparin protocol
- Perform rights of medication administration
- Ensure antidote is readily available
- Initiate Heparin therapy with initial bolus according to protocol
- Assess bleeding lab draw site/blood on sheets and obtain vital signs
- Stop Heparin Infusion per protocol for bleeding and high aPTT or Anti-Xa result
- Notify healthcare provider of bleeding and high aPTT or Anti-Xa using ISBAR tool
- Complete facility specific documentation

**Legend:**

- Confederate
- Change in physiology
- Red border incorrect action

## Supplements

**Confederate Scripts**

**Confederate Name Tags**

**Patient Identification Band**

**Nurses Notes**

**Orders**

**Heparin Protocol Clinical Process Map Example**

**Nurse-Driven Heparin Protocol Example (pages 1 and 2)**

**Medication Label**

## Confederate Scripts

### Betsy Harrison: Patient

**Medical/Surgical History:** Hypertension, hyperlipidemia, osteoarthritis, right hip fracture d/t fall three (3) weeks ago, Appendectomy, S/P open reduction internal fixation (ORIF) of the right hip three (3) weeks ago

**Medications:**

- Metoprolol 50mg one time daily
- Simvastatin 40mg in the evening
- Ibuprofen 400mg three times a day for pain

**Allergies: NKDA**

- If the learner did not perform patient/family teaching or safety check, the patient will become increasingly anxious stating “What is that? You can’t just put medicine in my IV without telling me what it is! Do you know what you are doing?”
- After the clerk hands the learner(s) the aPTT results at 1:30, the patient will state “Somebody came and drew my blood and now look at my arm! I need my sheets changed. They got wet after I went to the restroom.”

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#### Family Member

- At 1:30, the clerk will enter the room, distract the learner and hand him/her the aPTT result while the family member places the bloody lab draw dressing on the patient’s arm and empties contents of simulated blood on bed pad under the sheets

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#### Clerk

- At 1:30, the clerk will enter the room, distract the learner and hand him/her the aPTT result while the family member places the bloody lab draw dressing on the patient’s arm and empties contents of simulated blood on bed pad under the sheets
- Clerk will notify learner Dr. Santana is returning their call

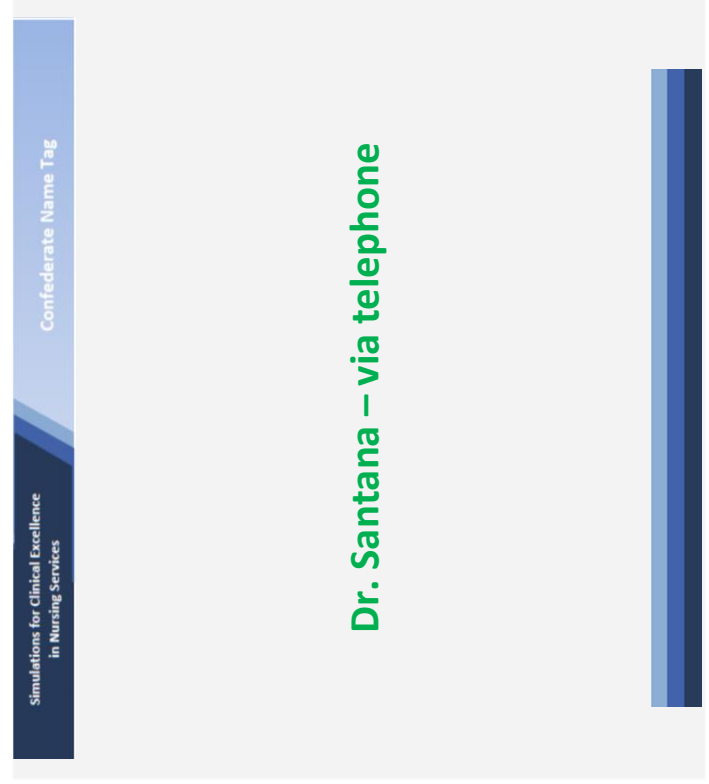
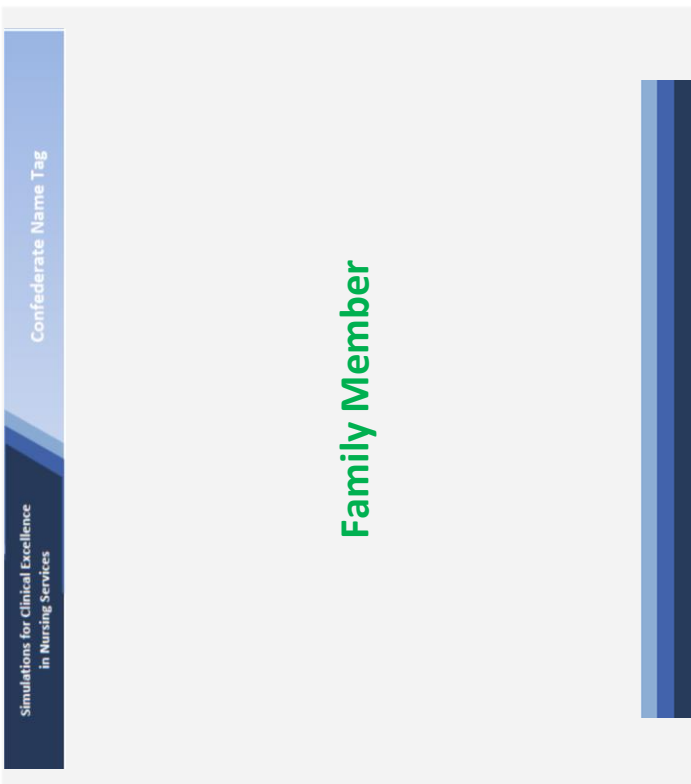
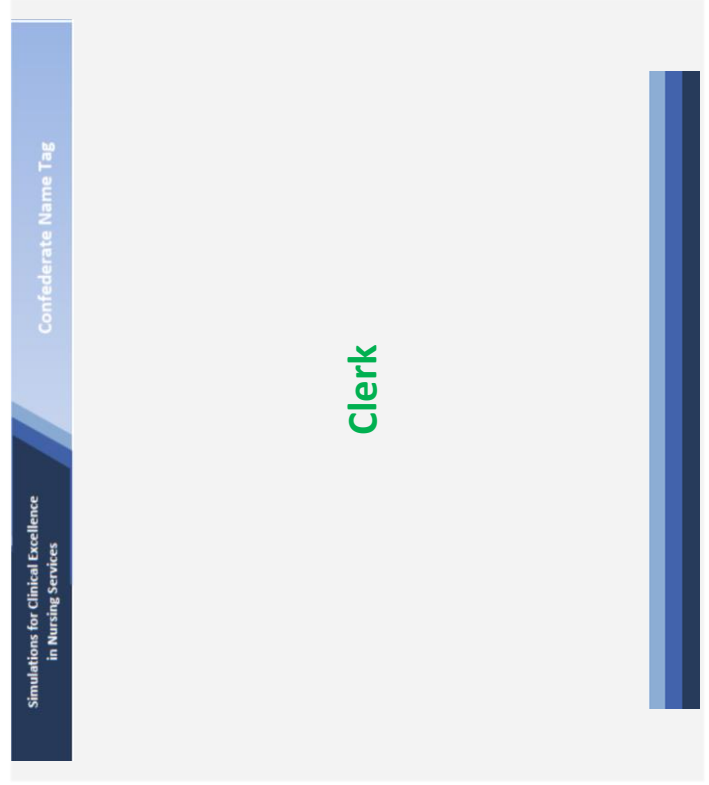
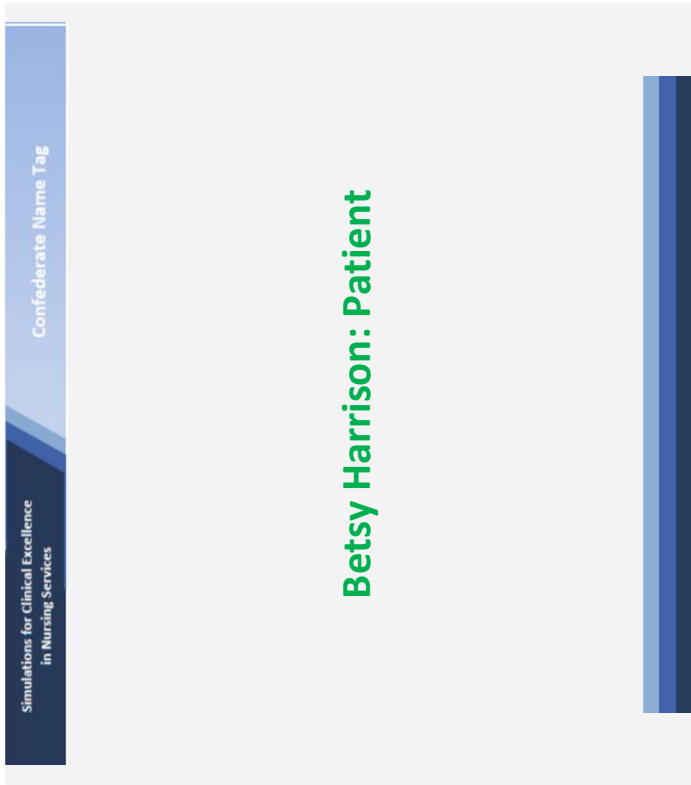
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#### Dr. Santana-Via telephone

- The learner(s) will place a call to Dr. Santana
- Dr. Santana will state “Follow the Heparin protocol, I am getting off the elevator now. I will be there in a minute.”



Confederate Name Tags



### Patient Identification Band

Patient Identification Band

|                        |                |
|------------------------|----------------|
| <b>Harrison, Betsy</b> | Dr. M. Santana |
| Age: 65                | Allergic: NKDA |
| 000-00-0000            |                |

### Nurses Notes

**Date:** Today

**Patient Name:** Betsy Harrison

**Mode of Arrival:** Personally owned vehicle

**Accompanied by:** Family member

Insert picture of patient  
here

**Chief Complaint:** Direct admit from the outpatient clinic for deep vein thrombosis and Heparin Infusion. Patient is s/p right hip fracture with open reduction internal fixation (ORIF) three (3) weeks ago. She just returned from a ten (10) hour car trip complaining for right calf pain.

**Active Problems:** Hypertension, hyperlipidemia, and osteoarthritis

**Patient information:**

- **General:** Alert, oriented and calm
- **Weight/Height:** 81.8kg (180lbs) 177.8cm (70in)
- **Vital Signs:** BP 140/84; Temp 97; HR 92; RR 22; O2 Sat 97%
- **Pain:** 5/10 right lower extremity
- **Neurological:** Unremarkable
- **Respiratory:** Eupneic
- **Cardiac:** Unremarkable
- **Gastrointestinal:** Unremarkable
- **Genitourinary:** Unremarkable
- **Musculoskeletal:** Right calf red, swollen, and warm to the touch. Pulses +2 bilaterally.
- **Skin:** Redness on calf of right lower extremity
- **Past Medical History:** Hypertension, hyperlipidemia, osteoarthritis, right hip fracture d/t fall three (3) weeks ago
- **Past Surgical History:** Appendectomy, S/P open reduction internal fixation (ORIF) of the right hip three (3) weeks ago

**Medications:**

- Metoprolol 50mg one time daily
- Simvastatin 40mg in the evening
- Ibuprofen 400mg three times a day for pain

**Allergies:**

- No known drug allergies (NKDA)

**SCREEN FOR ABUSE/NEGLECT:** N/A

Does the patient show any evidence of abuse? No

Does the patient feel safe in his/her current living arrangements? Yes

Suicidal or Homicidal Ideation in the past two weeks? No

Is the patient currently enrolled in primary care? Yes

**Diagnostic Procedures Ordered:**

- X-Ray
- Labs
- None
- EKG
- Head CT without contrast
- Other

**Triage Classification:** Emergency Severity Index

**Patient Disposition:** Medical-Surgical Unit

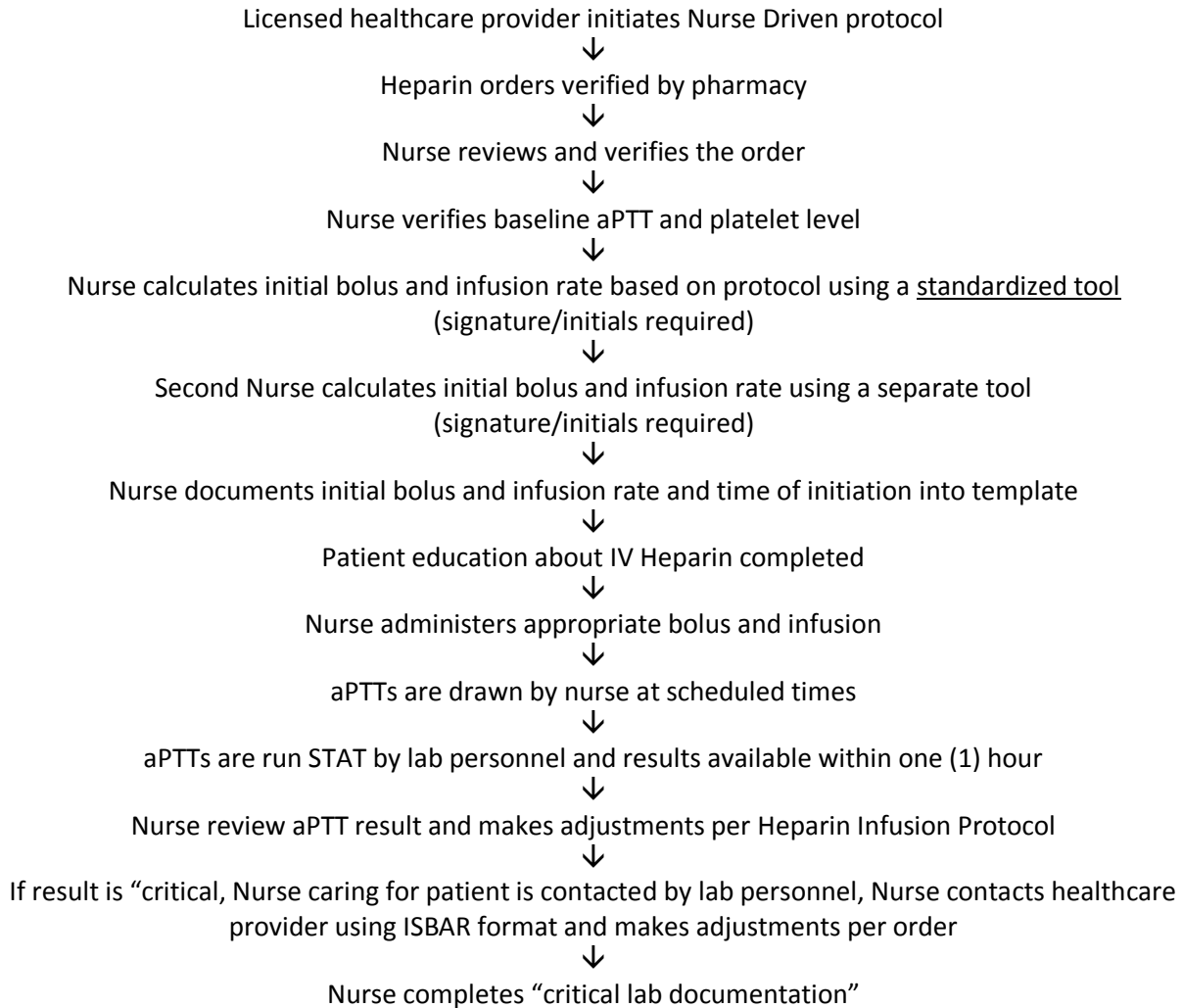
**Signed by:** /DM/



## Nurse-driven Heparin Infusion Protocol Clinical Process Map Example

Purpose:

1. Process to ensure accurate and safe Heparin Infusion administration
2. Standardize an aPTT time process that is congruent with lab processes and clinical practice to effectively track results
3. Nurses can confidently and skillfully manage Heparin Infusion protocol
4. Consistent with National Patient Safety Goal 03.05.01 – Improving the Safety of Using Medications



**Nurse-Driven Heparin Protocol Example (page 1)**

**Initiation of Heparin Therapy:**

Patient Admission (dry) Weight: \_\_\_\_\_ kgs

Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Nurse Initials: \_\_\_\_\_  
2<sup>nd</sup> Nurse Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

- **Initial Bolus Dose:** 80units/kg = \_\_\_\_\_ units  
Rounded to nearest 500 Units  
(Not to exceed 10,000 units for any patient)
- **Initial Infusion Dose: 18 units/kg/hr then adjust per chart below.**  
(20,000 units per 500 ml D5W)

**NOTE:** 2<sup>nd</sup> nurse must double check the 9 rights (Patient, Drug, Route, Time, Dose, Documentation, Action, Form, Response)

**Adjust Heparin infusion using the following:**

1. Obtain PTT **q6h** starting 6 hours **after start of infusion** for 24 hours, or longer, or until two consecutive therapeutic PTTs are obtained
2. **Therapeutic range is 60-99.**
3. Thereafter obtain PTT daily for the duration of heparin therapy.
4. In addition, following ANY dose change draw PTT q6h until 2 consecutive therapeutic PTTs are obtained.

**\*\*It is important to remember that PTTs are drawn 6 hours from the time of the dose change –NOT 6 hours from the last PTT drawn.**

**Maintenance of Heparin Therapy: \*\*\*NOTE:** If first PTT post-initiation or post-bolus is greater than 99, and there are no signs or symptoms of bleeding, DO NOT lower dose, as this PTT result may still reflect the bolus dose. Follow guidelines for subsequent PTT results.

| Heparin Infusion Dose Change Guidelines                 |  |   |  |   |
|---|--|---|--|---|
| PTT (seconds)   | Bolus (units)                                    | Hold Infusion                           | Dose Change  | PTT monitoring until 2 consecutive results are within therapeutic range |
| Less than or equal to 45                                | Repeat initial bolus                             | No                                      | +3 units/kg/hr   | Q6H   |
| 46 - 59   | Give ½ initial bolus                             | No                                      | +2 units/kg/hr   | Q6H   |
| 60 - 99   | 0  | No                                      | No change  | None  |
| 100 - 109   | 0  | No                                      | -1 unit/kg/hr  | Q6H   |
| 110 - 127   | 0  | Hold 30 minutes                         | -2 units/kg/hr   | Q6H   |
| ≥128 and/ or comment of "unable to clot in 150 seconds" | 0<br>Verify sample is not from contaminated line | Hold and call MD<br>Redraw if necessary | Per MD<br>(Typically Provider will hold x1 hour then decrease dose -3units/kg/hr and recheck in 4-6 hours) |   |

| Initials | Signature | Initials | Signature |
|----------|-----------|----------|-----------|
|          |           |          |           |

Nurse-Driven Heparin Protocol Example (page 2)

|   |   |
|---|---|
| IMPRINT PATIENT DATA CARD (Name, Address and Social Security No.) | <b>MEDICAL RECORD</b><br><br><b>NURSING DOCUMENTATION</b> |
|---|---|

| Labs                 | Date/Time Drawn | PTT results (seconds) | Bolus Given | Dose (units/kg/hr) | Time of dose change | Initials | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Nurse initials |
|----------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|-------------|--------------------|---------------------|----------|--------------------------------|
| <b>**First PTT**</b> |                 |                       |             |                    |                     |          |                                |
| <b>Second PTT</b>    |                 |                       |             |                    |                     |          |                                |
| <b>Third PTT</b>     |                 |                       |             |                    |                     |          |                                |
| <b>Fourth PTT</b>    |                 |                       |             |                    |                     |          |                                |
| PTT                  |                 |                       |             |                    |                     |          |                                |
| PTT                  |                 |                       |             |                    |                     |          |                                |
| PTT                  |                 |                       |             |                    |                     |          |                                |
| PTT                  |                 |                       |             |                    |                     |          |                                |
| PTT                  |                 |                       |             |                    |                     |          |                                |
| PTT                  |                 |                       |             |                    |                     |          |                                |
| PTT                  |                 |                       |             |                    |                     |          |                                |
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| PTT                  |                 |                       |             |                    |                     |          |                                |

| Initials | Signature | Initials | Signature |
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|---|---|
| IMPRINT PATIENT DATA CARD (Name, Address and Social Security No.) | <b>MEDICAL RECORD</b><br><br><b>NURSING DOCUMENTATION</b> |
|---|---|

Medication Label

|                 |             |
|-----------------|-------------|
| Name _____      | ID _____    |
| Drug _____      | Conc _____  |
| Dose/vol _____  | Route _____ |
| Date/Time _____ | Exp. _____  |



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- Department of Veterans Affairs. (2011). *VHA National patient safety improvement handbook* (VHA Handbook 1050.01). Washington, DC: VHA Publications.
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