



STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN RESOURCES

Earl Ray Tomblin
Governor

Karen L. Bowling
Cabinet Secretary

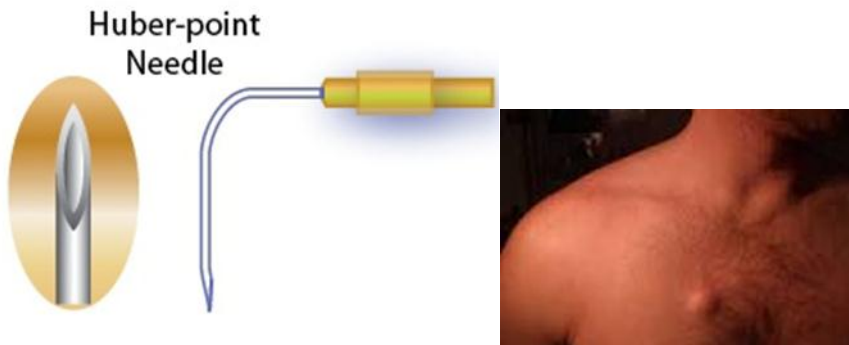
MEMORANDUM

TO: All EMS Personnel

FROM: Michael Mills, D.O. FACEP
WV EMS Medical Director

DATE: October 24, 2013

RE: Use of Huber Needles



Use of Huber Needles in pre-hospital setting

Huber Needles are specially designed point needles used to access indwelling ports, usually a "port-a-cath" imbedded in the chest wall. The Port-a-Cath is used to provide central venous access in patients requiring treatment of chronic severe illness. The Port-a-Cath is connected to the central venous system usually utilizing the subclavian vein. These catheters are left in place for months therefore it is imperative they remain sterile.

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The use of Huber Needles was discussed at the October 2013 Medical Policy and Care Committee meeting.

- The discussion involved using the Huber Needle in the pre-hospital setting
- In order to avoid contamination of the port, sterile technique is absolutely required during access
- Use of Huber Needles is not in the scope of practice for pre-hospital providers

The Medical Policy and Care Committee unanimously agreed that the Huber Needle should not be used in the non-sterile environment of pre-hospital care.

The WV Office of EMS agrees with the MPCC and concurs that the use of the Huber Needle, in the pre-hospital setting, exceeds the scope of practice for pre-hospital providers and does not recognize this as an approved procedure.

There is a process and policy allowing consideration of new procedures and equipment updates. This can be found on the WVOEMS website under Policies. This decision can be challenged but requires research and examples for reassessment.