

# Phlebitis Score

All patients with an intravenous access device should have the IV site checked every shift for signs of infusion phlebitis. The subsequent score and action(s) taken (if any) must be documented on the cannula record form.

The cannula site must also be observed:

- When bolus injections are administered
- IV flow rates are checked or altered
- When solution containers are changed

IV site appears healthy	0	No signs of phlebitis <b>OBSERVE CANNULA</b>
One of the following signs is evident: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Slight pain near IV site OR</li> <li>• Slight redness near IV site</li> </ul>	1	Possibly first signs of phlebitis <b>OBSERVE CANNULA</b>
TWO of the following are evident: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pain at IV site</li> <li>• Redness</li> <li>• Swelling</li> </ul>	2	Early stage of phlebitis <b>RESITE CANNULA</b>
ALL of the following signs are evident: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pain along path of cannula</li> <li>• Redness around site</li> <li>• Swelling</li> </ul>	3	Medium stage of phlebitis <b>RESITE CANNULA</b> <b>CONSIDER TREATMENT</b>
ALL of the following signs are evident and extensive: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pain along path of cannula</li> <li>• Redness around site</li> <li>• Swelling</li> <li>• Palpable venous cord</li> </ul>	4	Advanced stage of phlebitis or the start of thrombophlebitis <b>RESITE CANNULA</b> <b>CONSIDER TREATMENT</b>
ALL of the following signs are evident and extensive: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pain along path of cannula</li> <li>• Redness around site</li> <li>• Swelling</li> <li>• Palpable venous cord</li> <li>• Pyrexia</li> </ul>	5	Advanced stage thrombophlebitis <b>INITIATE TREATMENT</b> <b>RESITE CANNULA</b>

With permission from Andrew Jackson – Consultant Nurse,  
Intravenous Therapy & Care, The Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust  
(Adapted from Jackson, 1998)