

If the IV lines and cannulae are not removed or effectively flushed residual anaesthetic and sedative drugs can later be inadvertently introduced into the patient’s circulation causing muscle paralysis, unconsciousness and respiratory and cardiac arrest” NHS Improvement (2017).

NHS Improvement report “Patient Safety incidents are occurring from lapses in identifying and flushing all IV lines and cannulae at the end of a procedure when anaesthetic or intravenous sedative drugs have been given.

If the IV lines and cannulae are not removed or effectively flushed residual anaesthetic and sedative drugs can later be inadvertently introduced into the patient’s circulation causing muscle paralysis, unconsciousness and respiratory and cardiac arrest.

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Providers of NHS funded care that undertake surgical interventions or other procedures involving anaesthesia or intravenous sedation are asked to amend the Sign Out section of the WHO Checklist, or equivalent in local use, to include confirmation that before a patient leaves the procedural area cannulae and IV lines have been removed or flushed, and that this is documented.”

Full Alert

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