



ASSOCIATION FOR VASCULAR ACCESS

Position Statement

CANNULATION OF THE INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL JUGULAR VEINS BY REGISTERED NURSES AND OTHER QUALIFIED HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS

OVERVIEW

Venous access devices of all types are commonly found in both inpatient and outpatient environments. Registered nurses, and other health care professionals, routinely cannulate peripheral veins for placement of peripheral, midline and peripherally inserted central catheters (PICC) (1). Use of the modified Seldinger technique in combination with real-time ultrasound guidance has improved the success and safety of vascular access procedures performed by registered nurses (2). This has led to an expanded role for registered nurses, and other health care professionals, who specialize in vascular access procedures (3-7).

POSITION STATEMENT

It is the Position of the Association for Vascular Access that a properly qualified registered nurse, or other qualified health care professional, may cannulate the internal jugular and external jugular veins.

- A registered nurse must meet the educational and clinical practice requirements established by the Board of Nursing in the state practiced.
- The Association for Vascular Access supports an expanded scope of practice for registered nurses who are qualified to perform advanced vascular access procedures. This includes cannulation of the external or internal jugular vein for placement of a short peripheral catheter or for placement of a central venous catheter.
- Maximal sterile barrier precautions and ultrasound guidance are required during insertion of all jugular venous catheters.

QUALIFICATIONS

Minimal qualifications for a registered nurse to perform jugular vein cannulation include:

- Two years of clinical practice performing vascular access procedures.
- Knowledge of vascular anatomy of neck and upper chest.
- Competency in ultrasound imaging during vascular access procedures.

- Competency in the modified Seldinger technique for insertion of central venous catheters.
- Competency in the technical skills specific to cannulation of the jugular veins.
- Knowledge of complications associated with jugular venous cannulation.
- Certification by the Vascular Access Certification Corporation

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Approved by AVA Board of Directors
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