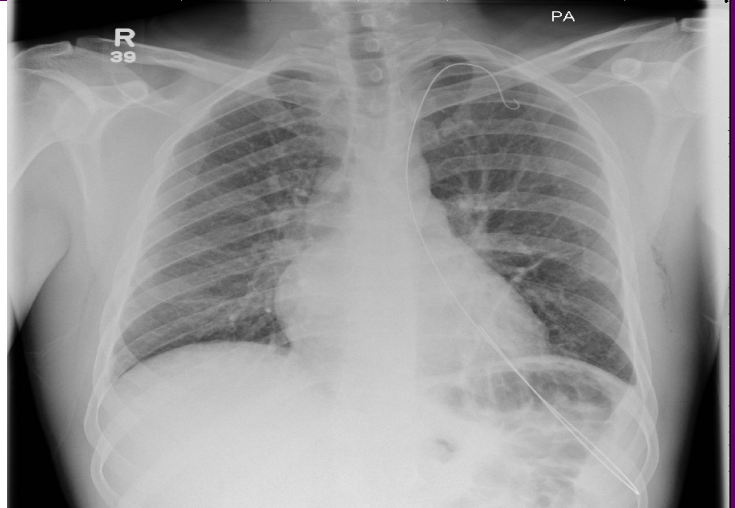


Safety Newsflash: Retained Guidewires



8 of the 16 NEVER EVENTS (reported over the past 2 years)
in the ED are RETAINED GUIDEWIRES
following chest drain and central line insertion

NRLS advice

Standardised process for guidewire management during central venous access:

- Two person process (operator and observer)
- Visual confirmation of guidewire removal by both persons
- Verbal communication of guidewire removal by both persons
- Documentary confirmation of guidewire removal by both persons
- Training and education to emphasise appropriate control of guidewires

Checklist

Use of 'WHO' type checklist as recommended by National Safety Standards for Invasive Procedures.



Invasive procedure checklist for EDs

DO THIS checklist for all invasive procedures including chest drain, central line, LPs, all cases with sedation.

1. Immediately before the procedure (Includes 'Sign In')

'Time Out'

- Confirm Patient Identity
- Team – allocate roles

Procedure

- Consent?
- Site marked if required?
- Correct proforma used?
- Imaging Reviewed?
- Equipment confirmed?
- Monitoring applied?
- Medication prepared?
- Airway assessment?
- Additional Support required?

- Allergies?
- Coagulopathy?
- Blood loss risk?
- Retained guidewire risk?

2. Procedure:

Repeat 'Time Out' if any changes to team or patient

National Safety Standards for Invasive Procedures (NatSSIPs) 



3. After the procedure

'Sign Out'

- Has the procedure been recorded?
- Guidewires/swabs/sharps accounted for?
- Have the specimens been labelled and sent?
- Any equipment problems?
- Key concerns for continuing care?
- Do we need to debrief?

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Modified from University Hospitals Bristol NHS Foundation Trust checklist with permission from Dr Redfern

For other RCEM issued Safety Alerts and Safety Newsflashes see:

www.rcem.ac.uk/safetyalerts