

PERIPHERAL VEIN ASSESSMENT

Suitable Vein Definition; Visible and compressible, 3mm or larger⁴

Grade	Number of suitable veins	Insertion Management
1	4-5 Veins	Insertion by trained competent healthcare practitioner (HCP)
2	2-3 Veins	Insertion by trained competent HCP
3	1-2 Veins	Insertion by trained competent HCP
4	No palpable visible veins	Ultrasound guided cannulation, by trained competent HCP, once only cannulation
5	No suitable veins with ultrasound	Refer for alternative vascular access device

Known difficult IV access patient must be referred to an IV specialist and will require an individualised pathway

⁴van Loon et al (2019)

⁵The number of attempts for cannulation before escalation should be reflected in local policy

⁶Referral process to be determined locally

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	1 Excellent	2 Good	3 Fair	4 Poor	5 None Identifiable
Outpatient/ Long term	<6 months Intermittent Therapy	<4 months Intermittent Therapy	4-6 weeks Intermittent Therapy	One treatment	Not suitable for cannulation
Inpatient/ Acute	<p><5 days - PIVC 6-14 days - Ultrasound guided PIVC/Midline</p> <p>Use may be extended beyond the recommended time if no complications are noted and still clinically indicated (see daily evaluation tool). 'Ultrasound guided PIVC/Midline is preferable for difficult access.'</p>				