

**Definitions:**

**Blood return:** Blood return refers to the presence of blood flowing back into an intravenous (IV) catheter after it has been inserted. It indicates that the catheter is properly placed in a vein and is functioning as intended

**Cavoatrial Junction:** the point where the superior vena cava (SVC) and inferior vena cava (IVC) meet the right atrium of the heart.

**Extravasation:** vesicant medication leaks into the tissue surrounding a failed IV site during an infusion. Can cause tissue necrosis.

**Infiltration:** IV failure with leakage of fluid into the surrounding tissue

**Infusion:** the administration of fluids, medications, and nutrients into a patient's bloodstream through an IV catheter inserted into a vein.

**Irritants:** Classes of drugs that cause irritation or a burning sensation during infusions

**Needleless connector:** A medical device that attaches to the end of an IV catheter which provides a safe way to access the catheter. This device also serves as a valve for patient safety.

**Phlebitis:** Inflammation of a vein that can cause redness or swelling and often presents as a cord-like feeling along the vein (will be painful for the patient when palpated)

**Thrombus:** blood clot in the venous system

**Tunneled line:** a long-term IV line that is inserted into a large vein, usually near the heart, after being threaded under the skin for a short distance

**Vesicants:** medications or fluids that cause severe tissue injury, blistering, and/or tissue necrosis

**Vena Cava:** large vein that carries deoxygenated blood back to the heart. Superior vena cava drains the upper part of the body. Inferior vena cava drains the lower part of the body. Both empty into the right atrium.