

REMEMBER **O.P.A.L.**

when assessing the vascular access device and infusion system



O. OBSERVE

The fluid container and administration set for:

- * Correct fluid hanging
- * Appropriate fluid level
- * Correct rate flow
- * Firmly luer-locked connections

The insertion site for:

- * All visible signs of complications
 - Redness
 - Edema
 - Fluid leakage
- * Clean, dry, and adherent dressing

P. PALPATE

The insertion site for:

- * Alteration in skin temperature
- * Induration or cording of the vein
- * Tenderness or any type of discomfort

A. ASPIRATE

The catheter for:

- * A free flowing blood return, followed by injection of normal saline to assess for resistance.

L. LISTEN

To the patient for complaints of

- * Pain, burning, stinging, tingling, numbness and other strange sensations along the entire catheter pathway
- * Chest discomfort with all types of central venous catheters

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