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## Phlebitis Definition

Inflammation of vein: inflammation of the wall of a vein

## Signs and Symptoms of Phlebitis

- Typically a slow onset of a tender red area along the superficial veins on the skin. A long, thin red area may be seen as the inflammation follows a superficial vein
- This area may feel hard, warm, and tender. The skin around the vein may be itchy and swollen
- The area may begin to throb or burn
- If an infection is present, symptoms may include redness, fever, pain, swelling, or breakdown of the skin.

## Intervention

- Remove the catheter at the first sign of tenderness, redness, or inflammation
- Apply warm compresses to the area
- Elevate extremity
- Place new catheter site in opposite extremity if possible
- Monitor for signs of infection (fever, swelling, tenderness, redness, increased WBC count)
- NSAIDS if not contraindicated for patient

## Preventive Measures

- Maintain aseptic technique when using or manipulating iv system
- Close monitoring of infusion site
- Determine compatibility of solutions or medications before use
- Securing catheter to prevent in-and-out movement
- Frequent catheter changes and site rotations
- Use of filters for particulate matter