



MEMORANDUM

To: All CommonSpirit Chief Nursing Officers

From: Kathleen Sanford, EVP, Chief Nursing Officer

CC: Division Chief Medical Officers
Barbara Pelletreau, SVP, Patient Safety
Roy Boukidjian, SVP, Infection Prevention
Craig Frost, SVP, Clinical Pharmacy Services
Kathryn Carpenter, VP Sourcing, Contracting, Clinical Strategy and Implementation
Supply Chain

Date: March 26, 2020

Subject: IV Tubing Guidelines

We have been informed that vendors are offering our CommonSpirit Health locations extensions to their IV Tubing. These 300 inch+ IV tubes are promoted as a way to allow our clinicians to place the IV pumps in hallways rather than in the rooms with the patients. We want to advise everyone at CommonSpirit that this is not an acceptable practice at any of our facilities at this time.

Some of the risks associated with this practice include:

- Incorrect dosing and medication errors which could lead to adverse events
- Negative impact to critical medication titration
- Waste of drugs (due to the length of the tubing), which further contributes to drug shortages
- Increased incidences of phlebitis, infiltration and extravasation introducing increased complications for the patients
- Increased fall risks, due to the tubing stretching across the patient rooms and into hallways
- Breaches in the IV tube line, exposing patients to direct infection
- Increases in downstream resistance = higher pressure = peripheral site occlusion
- IVFs/medications may display PHI in the hallways

We understand that there is a high level of fear with the COVID-19 pandemic; however, patient safety has to remain a top priority. There are many appropriate CDC guidelines for preserving PPE. If the need arises for us to change our IV tubing practices, we will release systemwide guidelines that will ensure the safety and protection of our patients and clinicians. Thank you again for your collaboration and all that you are doing to care for our patients during these unprecedented challenging times.