Safety Newsflash: Retained Guidewires

8 of the 16 NEVER EVENTS (reported over the past 2 years) in the ED are RETAINED GUIDEWIRES following chest drain and central line insertion.

NRLS advice
Standardised process for guidewire management during central venous access:

- Two person process (operator and observer)
- Visual confirmation of guidewire removal by both persons
- Verbal communication of guidewire removal by both persons
- Documentary confirmation of guidewire removal by both persons
- Training and education to emphasise appropriate control of guidewires

Checklist
Use of ‘WHO’ type checklist as recommended by National Safety Standards for Invasive Procedures.

Checklist:
- Immediately before the procedure (includes ‘Sign in’)
  - Time Out
    - Confirm Patient identity
    - Team - allocate roles
    - Procedure
    - Consent
    - Site marked if required
    - Correct proforma used
    - Imaging reviewed
    - Equipment confirmed
    - Monitoring applied
    - Medication prepared
    - Airway assessment
    - Additional Support required
  - Allergies?
  - Coagulopathy?
  - Blood loss risk?
  - Retained guidewire risk?

1. Procedure:
- Repeat ‘Time Out’ if any changes to team or patient

2. After the procedure
- ‘Sign Out’
  - Has the procedure been recorded?
  - Guidewires/vents/PICC’s accounted for?
  - Have the specimens been labelled and sent?
  - Any equipment problems?
  - Key concerns for continuing care?
  - Do we need to debrief?

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