

How Dense Are You? Going Beyond the Standardized Infection/Utilization Ratios(SIR/SUR) to Prevent Bloodstream Infections

Kristyn Schumacher BSN, RN, PHN, CIC, VA-BC
Infection Preventionist, UC San Diego Health



Kristyn Schumacher BSN, RN, PHN, CIC, VA-BC

1. Disclosure of Relevant Financial Relationships

I have no financial relationships to disclose.

2. Disclosure of Off-Label and/or investigative Uses

I will not discuss off label use and/or investigational use in my presentation.



Understanding Implicit Bias

Attitudes that
are unconscious
and unintentional

May be deeply
Ingrained and
Subconscious

You and or the
Speaker may not be
Consciously aware

Self-reflect
Your views

Strive towards a
more inclusive and
equitable state

Implicit bias refers to unconscious attitudes, beliefs, stereotypes, or prejudices that individuals may hold towards certain groups or individuals based on characteristics such as race, gender, age, or socioeconomic status. These biases are often unintentional and can influence our perceptions, decisions, and behaviors, even when we may consciously strive to be fair and impartial.



Implicit biases are formed through societal, cultural, and personal experiences, as well as the influence of media and upbringing. They can be deeply ingrained and operate at a subconscious level, impacting our interactions and decision-making processes.



What sets implicit biases apart from explicit biases is that individuals may not be consciously aware of holding them. These biases can persist despite an individual's genuinely held commitment to equality and fairness.



Recognizing and addressing implicit biases is crucial in promoting inclusivity, fairness, and equity in various domains, including healthcare, education, and employment. It is important to engage in self-reflection, education, and dialogue to identify and challenge our implicit biases, as this can help foster more equitable treatment and decision-making.



It's important to note that implicit biases can be countered through conscious efforts, such as increasing awareness, providing diverse perspectives, implementing unbiased policies and practices, and fostering empathy and understanding. By actively addressing implicit biases, we can strive towards a more inclusive and equitable society.

Objectives

1. Define Population SIR (PSIR) and how this metric is a more comprehensive measure of infection compared to the SIR alone
2. Define Vascular Access Device Density (VADD) and how this metric is a more comprehensive measure of line utilization compare to the SUR alone
3. Understand how these metrics can be useful tools when paired with other bloodstream infection prevention initiatives



Let's Review-What is the SIR?

The Standardized Infection Ratio (SIR) is the primary summary measure used by the National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) to track healthcare-associated infections (HAIs). As NHSN grows, both in its user-base and surveillance capability, the SIR continues to evolve. Highlighting the SIR and changes resulting from an updated baseline, this document is intended to serve both as guidance for those who are new to this metric as well as a useful reference for more experienced infection prevention professionals.

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National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases
Division of Healthcare Quality Promotion



- Does not take into account individual patient acuity
- Does distinguish between facilities that are better at preventing infections with central lines in place
- Does not give credit to facilities that do well at discontinuing central lines



Let's Review-What is the SUR?

The Standardized Utilization Ratio (SUR) is the primary summary measure used by the National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) to compare device utilization at the national, state, or facility level by tracking central line, urinary catheter, and ventilator use. Tracking device use in healthcare settings is essential to measuring exposure for device-associated infections. Highlighting the SUR as part of the new baseline project, this document is intended to serve as both guidance for those who are new to this metric, as well as a useful reference for more experienced infection prevention professionals.

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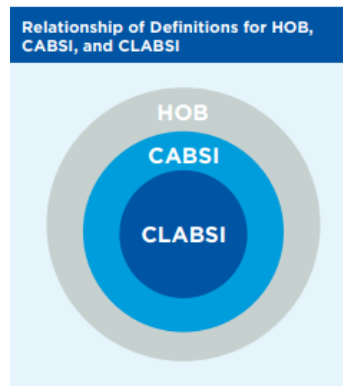
National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases
Division of Healthcare Quality Promotion



- Only accounts for **central line** utilization (i.e. 3 central lines in 1 patient = 1 central line day)
- Don't peripheral IVs cause harm too?
- Why do we care which line gave the patient a bacteremia?

<https://www.cdc.gov/nhsn/pdfs/ps-analysis-resources/nhsn-sur-guide-508.pdf>

Hospital Onset Bacteremia



- **Purpose:** Expand NHSN surveillance of bloodstream infections, regardless of organism (e.g., MRSA) or association with device (CLABS I)
- **Definitions:**
 - HOB: Blood culture collected on day ≥ 4 with pathogenic bacteria or fungi
- **Key Data Elements:** Microbiology

https://www.cdc.gov/nhsn/pdfs/training/D1_Introducing-NHSNs-New-Digital-Quality-Measures_508c.pdf



Population SIR (pSIR)

$$\text{pSIR} = \text{SIR} \times \text{SUR}$$

Why is this a more comprehensive metric than SIR/SUR alone?

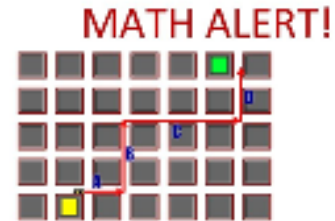
1. Accounts for device utilization
2. Reduces unfairly elevated SIRs in facilities that prioritize reducing device utilization

Fakih M, Huang RH, Bufalino A, Sturm L, Hendrich A, Haydar Z. 2158. Introducing the Population Standardized Infection Ratio (SIR): A Metric that Marries the Device SIR to the Standardized Utilization Ratio (SUR). *Open Forum Infect Dis.* 2018 Nov 26;5(Suppl 1):S636. doi: 10.1093/ofid/ofy210.1814. PMID: PMC6252887.



Hypothetically Speaking...

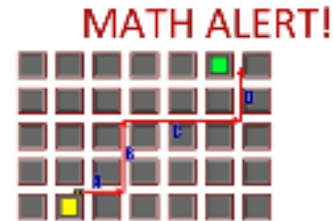
- Let's say Hospital A is a large academic medical center made up of only Medical ICUs. Hospital B has the same exact patient population and census as Hospital A.
- Let's pretend the national CLABSI rate per 1000 line days is 2/1000 line days (number of predicted infections)
- In 2024, Hospital A had 6 CLABSI and 3000 line days
 - $6/3000 = 2/1000 = \text{SIR } 1.0$
- Hospital B had 1 CLABSI and 500 line days
 - $1/500 = 2/1000 = \text{SIR } 1.0$
- Both of these look identical in their SIRs



But which one did a better job at *preventing* infections?

Hypothetically Speaking...

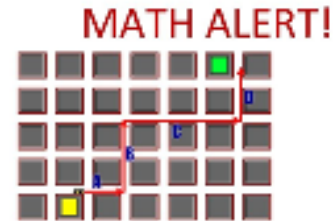
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- Both of these look identical in their SIRs



Hospital B!

Hypothetically Speaking...

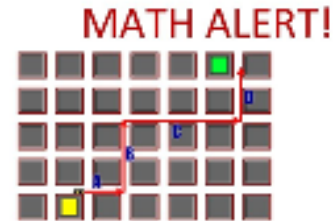
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 - $1/500 = 2/1000 = \text{SIR } 1.0$
- Both of these look identical in their SIRs



Which facility will look worse when HO Bacteremia becomes reportable?

Hypothetically Speaking...

- Let's say Hospital A is a large academic medical center made up of only Medical ICUs. Hospital B has the same exact patient population and census as Hospital A.
- Let's pretend the national CLABSI rate per 1000 line days is 2/1000 line days (number of predicted infections)
- In 2024, Hospital A had 6 CLABSI and 3000 line days
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- Both of these look identical in their SIRs



Hospital A!

The SIR compares large academic medical centers to one another, but not all of them care for the same types of patients...

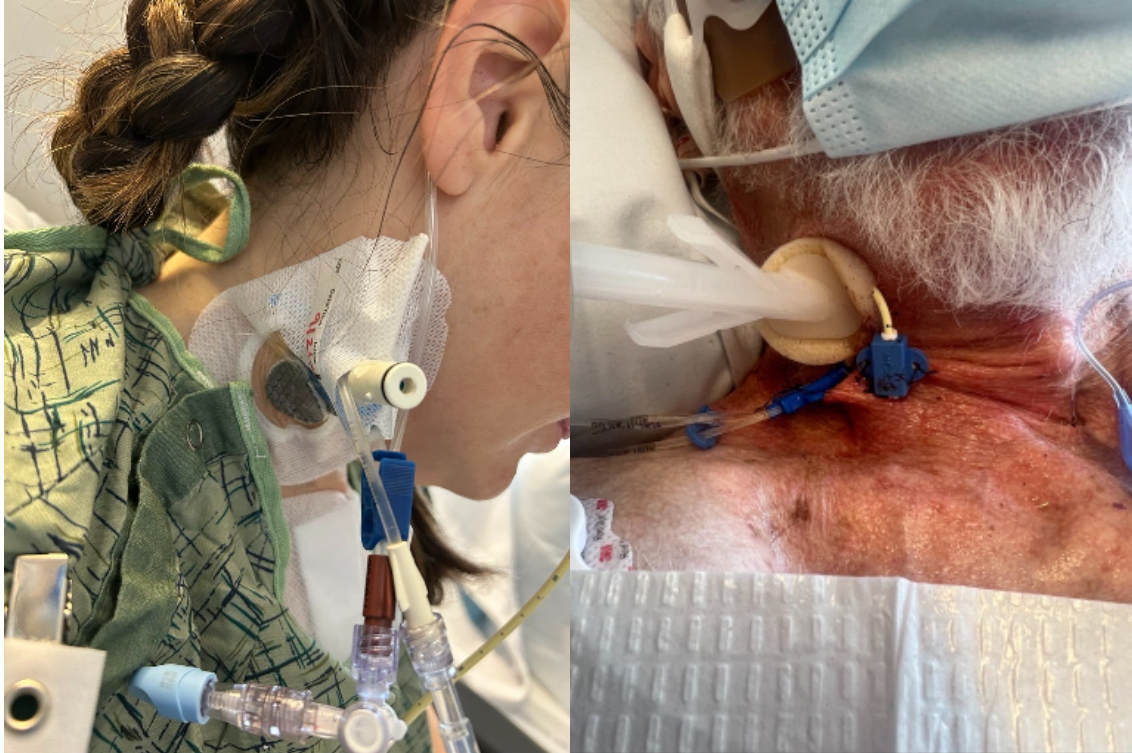


This is why we need to look *beyond* the SIR and **utilize the pSIR**

- Population SIR (pSIR) accounts for overall infection risk in a population
- pSIR accounts for both line utilization AND infection rate

What is the best way to prevent a CLABSI?

Maybe don't have one of these in your patient?



The pSIR is especially useful when interventions have led to substantial reductions in device use, as it better reflects the impact of these efforts on overall infection risk.

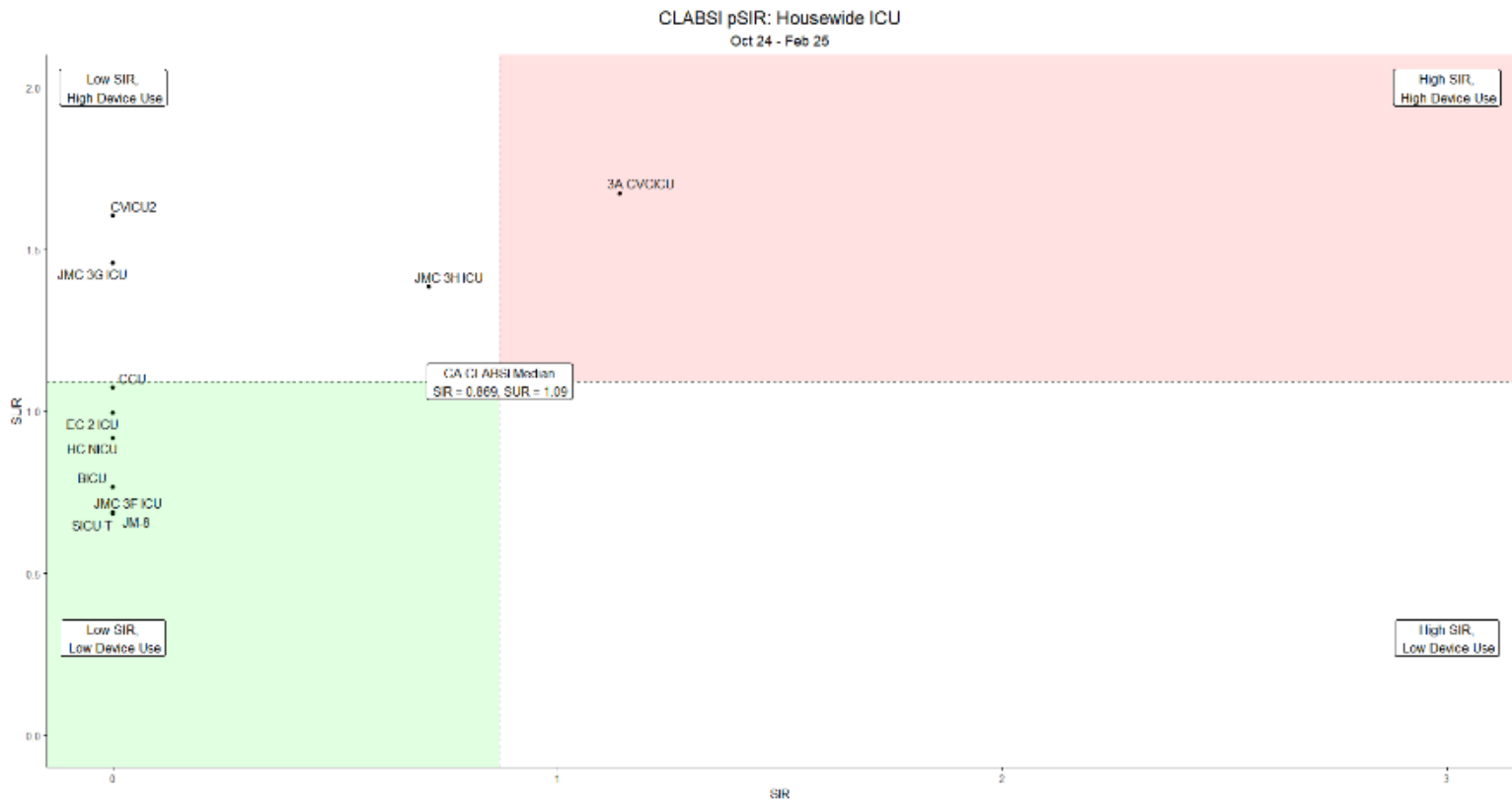


UC San Diego Health

- 3 General Acute Care Hospitals
- Over 1,000 licensed beds
- Solid organ and bone marrow transplant
- Level 1 Trauma Center
- San Diego County and Imperial County's only adult and pediatric burn center
- FY 25 CLABSI SIR 0.42*



Which units are doing well? Why?



Limitations of the pSIR

- Only accounts for *central line* utilization (SUR)
- Don't worry - we can go beyond the SUR as well

There is no denying PIVs are HARMFUL

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Peripheral Venous Catheter-Associated Bloodstream Infections (PVC-BSI) Risk Compared With Central Line-Associated Bloodstream Infections (CLABSI)

ARYEH FELDMAN MPH, JESSICA ALICIAN MPH, CIC, CALVIN FONG, FRANK EDWARD MYERS III MA, CIC, FAPIC, and
FRANCESCA J. TORRIANI MD, FIDSA

Page Range: 23–25

DOI: 10.2359/JAVA-D-23-00001

- Outside of the ICU, the CLABSI and PIV BSI rate per 1,000 line days is the same
- PIV BSI is more likely to kill you especially if the organism is staph aureus



There is no denying PIVs are HARMFUL

Journal of
Infection Prevention



• J Infect Prev. 2016 Jul 6;17(5):207-213. doi: [10.1177/1750165616666472](https://doi.org/10.1177/1750165616666472)

Infection risks associated with peripheral vascular catheters

[Li Zhang](#) ^{1,2}, [Siya Cao](#) ², [Nicole Marsh](#) ^{1,2}, [Gillian Kay-Daniel](#) ², [Julie Flynn](#) ^{1,2}, [Emily Larsen](#) ^{1,2}, [Claire M Rickard](#) ^{1,2}

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PMCID: PMC5102676 PMID: 28089482

- PIV BSI rate is lower than that of CLABSI
- Greater number of PIVs in use means absolute infection rates for PIV BSI approach that of CLABSI



= number of CL + PIV line days/number of patient days aka average # lines per

?



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But is Higher VADD Associated with Higher SIR?

Antonie van Leeuwenhoek International Journal of Microbiology (2022) 98, 1–4
doi:10.1017/S0950268821000046



Concise Communication

Hospital-onset bacteremia and fungemia: examining healthcare-associated infections prevention through a wider lens

Gregory M. Schrank MD, MPH^{1,2}, Graham M. Snyder MD, SM³ and Surbhi Lookha MBBS, MPH¹

¹Department of Medicine, University of Maryland School of Medicine, Baltimore, MD, USA, ²Department of Epidemiology and Public Health, University of Maryland School of Medicine, Baltimore, MD, USA and ³Department of Medicine, University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, Pittsburgh, PA, USA

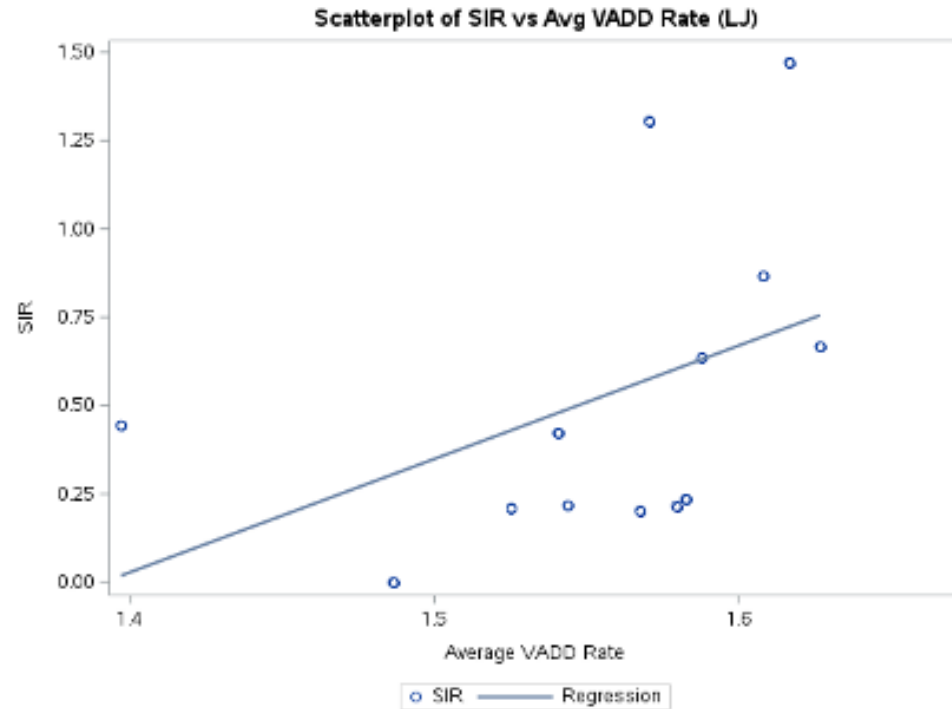
Abstract

A hospital-onset bacteremia and fungemia (HOB/F) metric will expand hospital surveillance of bloodstream infections beyond central venous catheters and provide an opportunity to re-evaluate infection prevention strategies. Here we consider the added value and potential pitfalls of HOB/F surveillance and present a framework for the standardized assessment of HOB events.

BSI reduction strategy	Rationale	Considerations for future intervention and innovation
Device and procedure-specific interventions	Significant proportion of BSI is not captured by the current narrow surveillance strategy Focus on device-specific risk may not capture overall risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Peripheral venous catheter-associated HOB prevention bundleExpand BSI prevention beyond central venous catheters, urinary catheters, and limited surgeries with required surveillance of all devices and procedures.Balance device-specific infection risk reduction against broader harm e.g., avoidance of urinary catheters should be one component of a larger strategy for appropriate urinary bladder management that also addresses risk of infection from urinary retention and suboptimal urinary drainage



What Can The VADD Tell Us?



Next Steps

UCSD PIV Lines Report

Practice Recommendations

I. Short and Long Peripheral Intravenous Catheters (PIVCs) and Midline Catheters

- A. Remove if no longer included in the plan of care or if not used for 24 hours or more.¹⁻⁴ (III)

Re-run Report Refresh Selected Select All

UCSD IPCE PIV Line Infusing?

UCSD IPCE PIV Line Active (11291)

The word "infusing" is documented in the line/lumen status in the last 24 hours will display a green checkmark.

UCSD IPCE PIV Line Infusing?

Dressing Intervention

Dressing Change Due

Risk Assessment

Ultrasound guidance

Peripheral IV - 22 G Left:Lower Forearm					✓	⚠	07/03/25	06/30/25 0430 Phlebotomy	
Peripheral IV - 20 G Left Antecubital	4	06/26/2025 HIC 10 LVS1	Antecubital	●	✓	⚠	07/03/25	06/30/25 0430 Phlebotomy	No
Peripheral IV - 22 G Left Hand	2	06/28/2025 HC 10-FAST	Hand	●	✓	⚠	07/05/25	06/30/25 0430 Phlebotomy	
Peripheral IV - 20 G Left Antecubital	4	06/26/2025 HIC 10 CCU	Antecubital	●	✓	⚠	07/03/25	06/30/25 0430 Phlebotomy	
Peripheral IV - Lower/Right Arm	2	06/28/2025 HC 10-CCU	Arm	⚠	⚠	⚠	07/05/25	06/30/25 0430 Phlebotomy	Yes
Deep Vein Peripheral IV Right	1	06/28/2025 HIC 10 CCU		⚠	⚠	⚠	07/05/25	06/30/25 0430 Phlebotomy	
Peripheral IV - 20 G Left Hand	2	06/28/2025 HC 10-CCU	Hand	⚠	✓	✓	07/05/25	06/30/25 0430 Phlebotomy	No
Peripheral IV - 20 G Left	1	06/28/2025 HIC 10 CCU	Foot	⚠	⚠	⚠	07/05/25	06/30/25 0430 Phlebotomy	No



Next Steps

Mission Control CLABSI - go Live June 30

1. **Central Line Not Infusing:** Hi Dr. _____, Our Mission Control group is working with primary teams to reduce central line-associated bloodstream infections. This patient's (insert name of central line), as indicated by the LDA summary flowsheet, has not been used for infusion in the last 36 hours. Please review the clinical indication for this central line and place an order for removal if it is no longer clinically indicated. Thank you.
2. **Central Line + 2 PIVs:** Hi Dr. _____, Our Mission Control group is working with primary teams to reduce central line-associated bloodstream infections. This patient currently has a central line and 2 POIVs which is considered a significant line burden, also known as vascular access device density (VADD). Higher VADD is associated with an increased risk for bloodstream infection. Please review the indication of each of these vascular access devices and order removal of those that are no longer clinically indicated. Thank you.
3. **Central Line Not Meeting Necessity:** Hi Dr. _____, Our Mission Control group is working with primary teams to reduce central line-associated bloodstream infections. Yesterday, the documented line indication on the LDA summary flowsheet for this patient's (insert name of central line) was "No longer indicated, will request order from provider to discontinue". If the central line is no longer indicated, please place an order for removal. Thank you.



Next Steps

Vascular Access Team - Do you have one?

4. INFUSION AND VASCULAR ACCESS SERVICES

Standard

4.1 Infusion and vascular access services require inter-professional collaboration and clinical experts to advance patient and organizational outcomes of care.

4.2 The scope of services provided by infusion and vascular access specialist teams (VAST) is structured to meet patient and organizational needs for safe delivery/administration of quality infusion therapy.

4.3 Infusion and vascular access services follow regulations applicable to each jurisdiction.

Nickel, B., Gorski, L., Kleidon, T., Kyes, A., DeVries, M., Keogh, S., Meyer, B., Sarver, M. J., Crickman, R., Ong, J., Clare, S., & Hagle, M. E. (2024). Infusion Therapy Standards of Practice, 9th Edition. *Journal of Infusion Nursing*, 47(1S), S1–S285. <https://doi.org/10.1097/nan.0000000000000532>



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Questions?



****IMPORTANT****

Record the Session ID and CE Code below to earn continuing education credit for this session

Session ID

CE Code



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