Central venous lines are indicated for administration of medications, delivery of chemotherapy, nutritional support, infusion of blood products, and blood draws.

Types of central venous lines include:

- Broviac/Hickman
- Port-a-Cath/Med-a-Port
- Percutaneous Intravenous Catheters (PIC).

Central venous line emergencies include:

- Catheter coming completely out
- Bleeding at the site
- Catheter broken in half
- Blood embolus
- Thrombus
- Air embolus
- Internal bleeding.

Signs of blood embolus/thrombus, air embolus, and internal bleeding:

2. Cyanosis.
3. Dyspnea.
4. Shock.
Supportive Care

1. Medical Supportive Care Protocol.

2. If catheter is completely out, apply direct pressure to site.

3. If there is bleeding at the site, apply direct pressure.

4. If catheter is broken in half, clamp end of remaining tube.

5. If suspected blood embolus, thrombus, or internal bleeding: clamp line.

6. If suspected air embolism, clamp line and place patient on left side.

7. Consider need for other protocols (e.g: Pediatric Respiratory Emergencies).

ALS Level 1

None

ALS Level 2 (Physician Authorization Required)

None