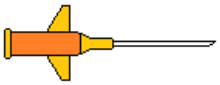
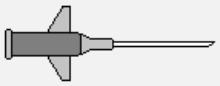
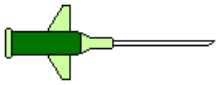
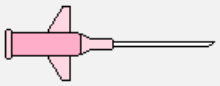
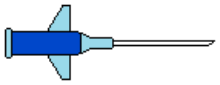
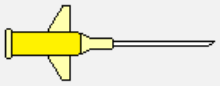
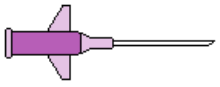
Peripheral IV Catheter Chart

Always select the **smallest** gauge peripheral catheter that will accommodate the prescribed therapy and patient need. Peripheral catheters larger than 20G are more likely to cause phlebitis. Do not use peripheral veins for continuous infusions of vesicants, parenteral nutrition or infusates with an osmolarity of 900 mOsm/L.[1] External catheter diameters, length and water flow rates are variable among each brand of catheter, with the dimensions and flow rates listed below being approximate. Fluid flow rates in actual patient use, are influenced by the type and viscosity of fluid, fluid temperature, height of the container and the use of needleless connectors.[2] There are numerous factors that could also affect fluid flow rates, once the catheter is inserted into a patient.

Color	Gauge Size	External Diameter (mm)*	Length (mm)*	Water Flow Rate (mL/min)*	Recommended Uses
 Orange	14G	2.1 mm	45mm	~240 mL/min	Trauma, Rapid blood transfusion, Surgery[1]
 Gray	16G	1.8 mm	45mm	~180 mL/min	Rapid fluid replacement, Trauma, Rapid blood transfusion[1]
 Green	18G	1.3 mm	32mm	~90 mL/min	Rapid fluid replacement, Trauma, Rapid blood transfusion[1]
 Pink	20G	1.1 mm	32mm	~60 mL/min	Most infusions, Rapid fluid replacement, Trauma, Routine blood transfusion[1]
 Blue	22G	0.9 mm	25mm	~36 mL/min	Most infusions Neonate, pediatric, older adults Routine blood transfusion[1]
 Yellow	24G	0.7mm	19mm	~20 mL/min	Most infusions Neonate, pediatric, older adults, Routine blood transfusion, Neonate or Pediatric blood transfusion[1]
 Purple	26G	0.6 mm	19mm	~13 mL/min	Pediatrics, Neonate[1]

References: ***Infusion Therapy Standards of Practice*** *Jan/Feb 2016*[1]
https://www.bd.com/infusion/products/ivcatheters/iagbc/videos/pdfs/iagbc_wp3.pdf [2]
**varies by specific catheter and manufacturer*

To learn more about our nursing Infusion education, visit **http://pedagogyeducation.com/infusion**