



Your **CANNT** Connection



June 2017

Dear CANNT Members,

Welcome to June, the beginning of summer and all things new and exciting! Lots is happening at CANNT where we are busy working on the design of the new website, the planning for the upcoming conference in Halifax and coming up with new ways to stimulate and engage our members! Recently we have received notice from our current national office team that after 16 years of working with CANNT, they are retiring and moving on. While we will sincerely miss working with our current office staff, they have kindly committed to assist us through the transition to a new team. An RFP is currently being prepared to begin the process of hiring a new company or individuals to support the administrative needs of CANNT.

As promised in our last issue, we have received our first advice call from King Tai Chan a VA nurse at Sunnybrook. CANNT VP of Western Canada and Vascular Access CNL Rick Luscombe from Vancouver, BC has kindly provided the response. Read more below and please keep the advice requests coming!

On another note, I have been considering doing a trial of translating my Director's update in each CANNT newsletter in French to help us reach more of our French-speaking colleagues. Please send me your feedback on this idea at: CANNT.directorcom@gmail.com

Happy summer!

Michele
Director of Communications, CANNT Board of Directors

Questions and Answers,

Hello,

I would like to know whether your unit using elbow splint or brace to stabilize patient's elbow for preventing the upper

Dates to Remember

September 9 - 12, 2017
[EDTNA/ERCA International Conference](#)

September 20, 2017
[Nephrology Healthcare Professionals Day](#)

September 23 - 25, 2017
[ANNA Fall Meeting](#)

September 27 - 28, 2017
[CANSW 2017 Conference](#)

October 5 - 6, 2017
[BC Kidney Days](#)

October 4 - 5, 2017
[REINQ Conference](#)

October 19 - 21, 2017
[CANNT Charting Our Course, Setting Sail for the Future](#)



May 5 - 8, 2018
[17th Congress of the International Society for Peritoneal Dialysis](#)

arm fistula or graft infiltration as some patients arterial site needle was quite close to elbow and they were restless. Could you tell me the names of the products if you have one? Thank you for your help.

King Tai Chan

Vascular Access Nurse

*Sunnybrook Health Science Centre
Toronto*

Dear King Tai Chan,

Preventing infiltrations on dialysis has always been a challenge. Upper arm fistulas, especially brachiocephalic arteriovenous fistulas, can present challenges when short sections near the antecubital fossa are used for the arterial needle. With more surgeons being creative with making an anastomosis, a proximal radial artery anastomosis is not unheard of, now the arterial and the venous needle could potentially be close to the elbow.

Historically, from my experience, we used to use IV packaging to make 'arm boards'. The packaging used to come in rectangular boxes. We would put the box under patient's arm and secure it with kling gauze and tape. It was meant to be more of a reminder. They weren't very sturdy and the patient frequently would bend their arm anyway, and an infiltration would occur.

In the institution that I presently work in we would gently tie patient's arm upon their request, if they are at high risk, using blue pads, kling, or a towel/under pad loosely wrapped around the wrist and then secured with a blue clamp. Again, this will not prevent a patient from bending but is used as a gentle reminder, not to bend.

The problem with this type of restraint is that may go against a hospital policy on the usage of restraints. Before using any type of device ensure that your institution is okay with using these types of devices. Also ensure that your patient is able to provide informed consent for this and that both your assessment of their ability to do so and their consent is documented clearly.

Are there splints or braces made for hemodialysis to prevent a patient from bending their arms? I did a search on the internet and could not find any type of device specifically for hemodialysis. Broadening my search, IV therapy does have devices, what we used to call arm boards now referred to as IV arm supports and arm splints. The arm supports look very similar to the old make shift IV boxes. Today they seem to be steadier and are fastened with Velcro. The reusable arm splint is a device that wraps around the arm. It's filled with air, does not limit movement so is not considered a restraint.

Be aware that if devices are used hyperextension of the elbow may occur. This could lead to a patient complaining of numbness, tingling, or pain in the arm and shoulder while on

Stay Connected



Forward to a Colleague

Do you have colleagues that don't receive our monthly newsletters? Please forward this to them using the link below.

Your Feedback is Valued!

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National Administrator

[Sharon Lapointe](#)

Membership
Coordinator

[Susan Mason](#)

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Media

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Director of
Communications

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dialysis. Now you have a new set of problems.

Another alternative for cannulation at the antecubital fossa is the usage of supercaths (angiocaths). The cost of angios is considerably higher than steel needles. The comfort level of nursing staff should also be considered. Many nurses are unfamiliar with these devices and have not been educated on how to use them. Implementation of any new equipment or technique requires a robust education strategy for nursing and other staff.

Sincerely,
Rick Luscombe
Vascular Access Clinical Nurse Leader
St. Paul's Hospital,
Providence Health Care, Vancouver, BC



Welcome to Halifax for CANNT 2017

As Atlantic Canada's entertainment and cultural capital, Halifax is a melding of old and new

worlds. Modern office towers of glass and steel stand beside historic buildings that once stored the booty of privateers. Located on the second largest natural harbour in the world, life here revolves around the sea and the surrounding areas offer plenty of fun activities on land, water and in the air.....one of life's few places where one can enjoy urban flair and coastal retreats all in the same day! Halifax truly is a vibrant urban centre resting on the edge of nature.

<http://www.destinationhalifax.com/>

Tourism Tips for CANNT 2017

Halifax Public Gardens

The Halifax Public Gardens are a 16-acre oasis in the heart of downtown Halifax.

Officially opened in 1867,

The Halifax Public Gardens have retained much of their original Victorian character thanks to a series of talented superintendents, chief horticulturists, and



gardeners. Through their efforts, the Public Gardens were designated a National Historic Site of Canada in 1984.

<http://www.halifaxpublicgardens.ca/>

2017 Conference Information

[Please click here for more information.](#)

CANNT Call for Nominations to the Board of Directors

The CANNT Nominating Committee is looking for CANNT/ACITN members to apply for the following positions on the CANNT/ACITN Board of Directors.

The positions commence October 2017 in Halifax, NS.

Deadline to apply: June 15, 2017

Positions Available:

VP Atlantic (3 year term)

VP Quebec (3 year term)

Benefits to Board Membership

- have a DIRECT VOICE in how YOUR Association is run.
- receive complimentary registration for the annual conference, with travel and accommodations covered as well!
- CNA recognizes professional committee membership / participation (executive of a specialty association) and 25 hours can be claimed annually towards certification hours.

[For more information and forms for candidates and nominations click here.](#)

CANNT Awards

There are MANY Bursaries, Grants and Awards that CANNT members can apply for each year. Members can also nominate a fellow CANNT member for their outstanding work in nephrology.

[Click here to view ALL Bursaries/Grants/Awards of Excellence available for CANNT members.](#)

Deadline to apply: May 1, 2017 or June 30, 2017 (varies with award)

Career Opportunities

- 1 Sessional Nursing Instructor - Faculty of Nursing, University of Calgary, Calgary, AB
Posted: May 18, 2017
- 2 Nurse Practitioner - St. Paul's Hospital, Vancouver, BC
Posted: May 17, 2017
- 3 Dialysis RN Positions in the USA
Posted: May 17, 2017

[Click here for more information.](#)

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