

# Improving the Identification of Phlebitis Through Implementation of a Phlebitis Scoring Tool

Kimberly Enterline, MSN, RN, CCRN



## Quality Improvement Project Using Pre- and Post-Comparison



Does the VIP tool effect the incidence or severity of phlebitis?

### INTERVENTION

Visual Infusion Phlebitis Scale (VIP)

#### Visual Infusion Phlebitis Scale

Score	Observation
0	IV site appears healthy
1	One of the following is evident: Slight pain near IV site OR slight redness near IV site
2	Two of the following are evident: • Pain at IV site • Erythema • Swelling
3	All of the following signs are evident: • Pain along path of cannula • Induration
4	All of the following signs are evident and extensive: • Pain along path of cannula • Erythema • Induration • Palpable venous cord
5	All of the following signs are evident and extensive: • Pain along path of cannula • Erythema • Induration • Palpable venous cord • Pyrexia

70 RN's

Education

Badge Buddy

Posters

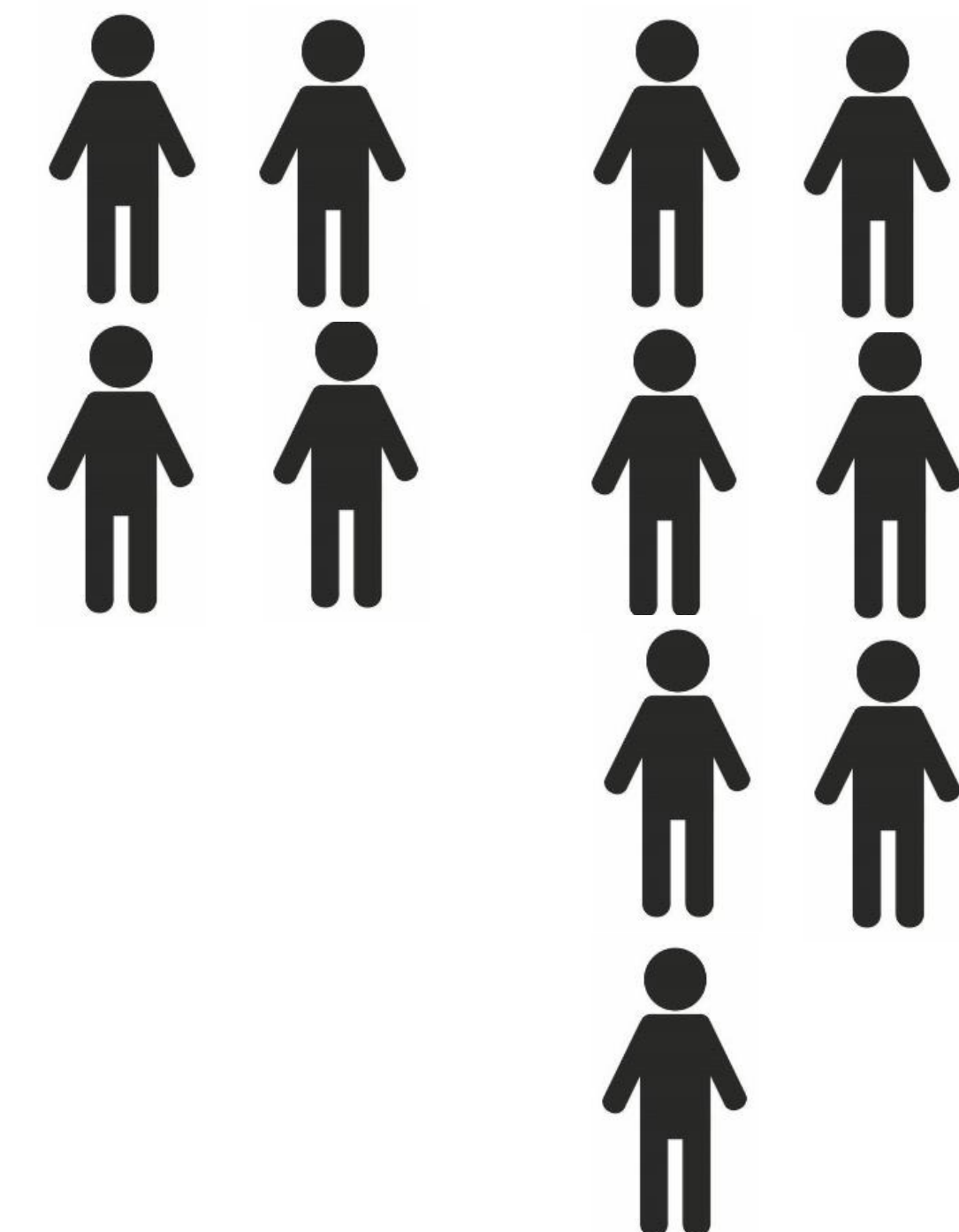
Abbreviation: IV, intravenous.  
Reprinted with permission from: Jackson A. Infection control—a battle in vein: infusion phlebitis. *Nurs Times*. 1998;94(4):68 -71.

## RESULTS

### Phlebitis

Pre

Post



# of Cases

0.034

396 patients included

189 pre  
207 post  
unpaired data

### Wound Care Consults

Pre

Post



# of Cases

0.010

Incidence Rate

0.005

Incidence Rate

0.021

## Summary:

The use of the VIPS scoring tool had a positive outcome, increasing the identification of phlebitis from 4 to 7 events, achieving part of the purpose of the project. During the post-implementation period, there was also an increase of wound care consults reported, signifying an increase in moderate to severe cases of phlebitis differing from the projects second goal.