

The Role of Hospital-Based Vascular Access Teams and Implications for Patient Safety: A Multi-Methods Study

Results from an Online Survey of 62 Hospitals and Qualitative Interviews with 74 Hospital-Based Clinicians at 10 Sites

Characteristics of Vascular Access Teams (VATs)



More than 77% (n=48) of Hospitals had an On-Site VAT



Average Team Size = 7 Registered Nurses



Primary Function = Device Insertion



Other Roles = Device Care and Removal, Education

Areas for Improvement of VAT Integration

Integrate VAT in decision-making, particularly related to appropriate device selection



Promote VATs to serve as key educators in the field by coaching medical and nursing trainees on vascular access device use

To realize the full benefit of VATs, changes in hospital culture and willingness to integrate VAT nurses into decision-making may be needed.