

Reporting IV Extravasation and Infiltration Patient Safety Incidents in SIMS

IV extravasation occurs when vesicant or irritating solutions infiltrate or leak into surrounding tissues during IV therapy. Common agents that can cause extravasation injuries include vasopressors, hypertonic solutions, contrast, and certain cytotoxic or chemotherapy drugs ([Dynamic Health](#)). IV Infiltration is when non-irritating fluid leaks into surrounding tissues.

All incidents of extravasation or infiltration according to the [Management of Extravasation Events policy](#) are to be reported in SIMS, as these are patient safety incidents.

To improve ease of reporting in one place and analysis of these incidents, a change in SIMS has been made. These will now be reported under **Medication Related-> Administration -> Extravasation or Infiltration** (brand new option).

There will no longer be options under IV/Vascular Access Device or Diagnostic Imaging. This change will allow for the identification of the involved medication and having one place to report all incidents of extravasation, which will allow Nova Scotia Health and IWK to analyze these incidents to understand the true scope of the reported incidents, to help identify important improvements for change and patient safety!



Thank you for reporting patient safety incidents in SIMS and helping to make care safer at Nova Scotia Health!

