Recently there has been an increase in the numbers of patients discharged from A&E with a cannula in situ. Incidents are now occurring 2 or 3 times per week. We have to make a conscious effort to reduce this number preferably to zero.

*Patient Care Alert – Removal of IV Cannula 24 August 2016*

Therefore please can we try the following;-

* Write on the board clearly in capital letters CANNULA so that whoever is discharging the patient can glance over at the board and know that the patient has a cannula in situ.
* When inserting the cannula inform the patient (and /or relative) that this cannula needs to be removed before the patient goes home. Some patients may remind us.
* Ensure nursing documentation regarding cannulation is completed.
* Medical staff (especially on majors) please inform the nurse looking after the patient that the patient can be discharged and let them make the final arrangements.
* Only cannulate where it is necessary, don’t cannulate as a matter of routine to take bloods use vene puncture where possible.

**The above alert is for discussion at Doctors Handover for the next 14 days, discussion at the next staff and Q+P meetings, inclusion in September Hot Topics circulation to all medical and senior nursing staff via e-mail and display on staff noticeboard.**