Policy
1. Midline catheters are inserted in the community by Registered Nurses who are certified in the insertion of midline catheters.
2. A physician or RN(EC)’s order for peripheral IV therapy must be in place before the nurse can proceed with the insertion.
3. Midline catheters may be dressed, flushed and accessed for the purpose of infusing medications or solutions by:
   - Registered Nurses
   - Registered Practical Nurses certified by CarePartners in intravenous therapy
   - Clients/caregivers who have received instruction in the specific IV procedure by a nurse and who have demonstrated competence in performing the procedure
4. The CarePartners’ medical directive for intravenous therapy is implemented for flushing when the physician or RN(EC) does not provide specific flushing and dressing orders for the maintenance of the midline. (Nursing P&P G-02)

Background Information
Midline catheters are considered a long-dwell peripheral vascular access device. They are inserted by a nurse or physician in the antecubital fossa. They are approximately 8-10 inches in length and extend up to, but not past, the shoulder. Midline catheters are used for clients who require peripheral intravenous therapy for a period longer than 72 hours. The dwell time for a midline can be 6 weeks or longer. No x-ray post-insertion is required. The midline catheter is left in place as long as it is functional and no signs of infection are present.

Strict aseptic technique is followed whenever accessing or dressing midline catheters
Only solutions and medications appropriate for delivery through a peripheral vein are infused through a midline catheter. (Duration of therapy between 1 week to 1 month, infusate between 5-9 pH and <600 mOsm/L).

Only syringes 10 cc and larger are used to flush a midline catheter.

A blood pressure cuff is never applied or venipuncture performed on an arm with a midline in situ.

Registered Nurses may remove midline catheters with a physician's order.

**Care and Maintenance of a Midline Catheter**

**Insertion of the Midline Catheter:**
Midline catheters are inserted in accordance with the manufacturer's specific instructions.

**Dressing the Midline Catheter:**
The transparent semi-permeable dressing is changed 24 hours post insertion, whenever moist or the integrity is compromised, and every 7 days. The policy and procedure for central line dressings is used when changing a dressing on a midline catheter. See Nursing P&P G-26

**Flushing the Midline Catheter:**
The policy and procedure for central line flushing is used when flushing a midline catheter. See Nursing P&P G-25. Flushing volumes, frequency and solutions are found on the CarePartners' medical directive for each division.

**Bloodsampling:**
Midline catheters are not used for blood sampling.
Procedure for Removing the Midline Catheter

Equipment:
- Non-sterile gloves
- Sterile gloves
- Sterile 4x4 gauze square
- Sharps container and waste receptacle

Procedure:
1) Perform hand hygiene.
2) Don gloves.
3) Remove the dressing.
4) Remove non-sterile gloves. Perform hand hygiene and don sterile gloves.
5) Grasp the actual cannula of the catheter, not the catheter hub, and pull slowly in small increments, keeping the catheter parallel to the vein.
6) Apply pressure to the insertion site with the 4x4 gauze once the catheter is completely removed.
7) Apply gauze and tape dressing.
8) Measure length of catheter. Place the catheter into a sharps container or double bag and place in waste receptacle.
9) Remove gloves and perform hand hygiene.