



Intermountain Healthcare First System in Nation to Remove the Needle from Blood Draws

Intermountain sets new clinical standard by reducing anxiety and risks for one of healthcare's most common inpatient procedures

SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH, USA, July 26, 2017 /EINPresswire.com/ -- As part of its commitment to transform healthcare by serving its patients with cutting-edge, high quality care, Intermountain Healthcare today announced that it is the first health system in the U.S. to embark on a commitment to provide more humane inpatient blood draws across its 22 hospitals. This bold move will establish a new national standard for patient and practitioner-centered care and quality.

Intermountain is adopting a needle free technology from San Francisco-based Velano Vascular called PIVO™. PIVO connects to an indwelling peripheral IV catheter, commonly used in hospitalized patients, and enables practitioners to extract blood from the vein. Following more than two years of clinical collaboration, the system will begin its rollout immediately.

“Blood draws are critical, common elements in modern medicine, but they cause an unnecessary amount of anxiety, pain and risk due to the use of century-old technology and practice,” said Kim Henrichsen, Intermountain senior vice president and chief nursing executive . “We are thrilled to offer a new standard of care that, over time, will help obviate the need for needles used for hospital blood collection. This commitment to standardizing draws will enhance quality for both patients and practitioners.”

Inpatient blood draws occur nearly 500 million times a year in the U.S. and inform more than 70% of all medical decisions. At the same time, 30% of the U.S. hospital patient population are considered Difficult Venous Access due to obesity, age and disease, making it even more challenging to collect blood samples.

“It is baffling that in an era of smartphones and space travel, clinicians draw blood by penetrating a vein with a needle – oftentimes in the early morning hours,” said Todd Dunn, director of Innovation in Intermountain’s Transformation Lab. “Through our Design for People program, we resolved to find a better way for our phlebotomists and nurses to more humanely and consistently draw blood. Following 15,000 PIVO draws on adults and children with no adverse events and overwhelmingly positive feedback from patients and caregivers alike, it is clear that we are together establishing a new standard of care.”

About Intermountain Healthcare

Intermountain Healthcare is a Utah-based not-for-profit system of 22 hospitals, 180 clinics, a Medical Group with about 1,500 employed physicians and advanced practitioners, a health plans group called SelectHealth, and other medical services. Intermountain is widely recognized as a leader in transforming healthcare through high quality and sustainable costs. For more information, visit www.intermountainhealthcare.org.

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