

**RESULTS**  
**VIP SURVEY #8**  
**FEMORAL SHEATH REMOVAL (2)**

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The Volunteers in Participatory Sampling (VIPs), is a large group of AACN members who are demographically representative of our total membership. The VIPs provide AACN with a mechanism to reach a larger number of our membership and survey their thoughts and opinions on a variety of topics. AACN utilizes the VIPs to serve a one year term and commit to responding up to six mail or phone surveys. This survey was mailed to the VIPs and six hundred forty five (645) were returned, which is 69.2%. Participants were also given the opportunity to expand upon any of their responses and /or comment on any survey item. The typical survey respondent is a staff nurse over age 40. This nurse is bachelors prepared with over 6 years of nursing and critical care experience. She works in an adult critical care unit (predominately surgical or cardiovascular surgical unit) at a community hospital with greater than 200 beds.

The percentages for each question may not always equal 100% because participants may not have answered a particular question, may have been asked to check more than one answer if applicable or may have incorrectly marked the question, causing that answer to be unreadable by the scanner.

For several questions, the number of people responding varies. In order to accurately represent the data, the number of respondents for each question is in parentheses immediately following the question.

**FEMORAL SHEATH REMOVAL:**

1. Do nurses in critical care, stepdown/intermediate care and/or cath lab remove femoral sheaths post cardiac procedures? (623)

Yes	48.9%	No	51.0%
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If no, go to question 10.

2. What qualifications, experience, and/or education must a nurse have to qualify to perform sheath removal? (select all that apply)

No special training	7.6%	(50)
Classroom lecture	22.0%	(144)
Precepted experience	46.3%	(302)
Other	14.2%	(93)

3. What types of sheaths are nurses allowed to remove? (select all that apply)

Post-cardiac cath sheath	46.9%	(306)
Post-angioplasty sheath	39.5%	(258)
Post-stent sheath	33.2%	(217)
Post-IABP sheath	15.0%	(98)
Other	9.3%	(61)

4. Are other healthcare providers required to be **physically present** during the sheath removal procedure? (select all that apply)

Nurse	21.9%	(143)
Physician	12.4%	(81)
Assistive personnel/technician	14.7%	(96)
None	38.0%	(248)
Other	13.5%	(88)

5. Are other healthcare providers required to be **readily available** during the sheath removal procedure? (select all that apply)

Nurse	36.3%	(237)
Physician	23.6%	(154)
Assistive personnel/technician	18.4%	(120)
None	19.0%	(124)
Other	13.5%	(88)

6. Generally, what is the patient care load for those nurses caring for sheath removal patients? (291)

1:1	16.8%	2:1	1.7%
1:2	58.7%	Other	7.2%
1:3	15.4%		

7. What method do you use to obtain hemostasis post sheath removal? (192)

Manual compression	64.5%
Mechanical compression	24.4%
Vascular hemostasis device (eg. Vasoseal)	6.2%
Other	4.6%

8. Do you have written guidelines for the care of patients requiring femoral sheath removal? (select all that apply)

Policy	39.4%	(257)
Procedure	39.5%	(258)
Patient care standard	26.3%	(172)
None	13.0%	(85)
Other	13.0%	(85)

9. Are these written guidelines research-based? (310)

Yes	42.9%
No	4.1%
Don=t know	49.0%
Not applicable	3.8%

10. If no to Q1, who is responsible for sheath removal? (299)

Physician	48.4%
Physician assistant	2.6%
Resident	20.0%
Technician	9.3%
Other	19.4%

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