DO NOT FORGET · THE SHORT CHECKLIST



Arterial cannulation

Placement of a radial (or femoral) arterial catheter for continuous invasive blood pressure monitoring and repeated arterial blood sampling.

EM Orbit

Patient reference	Date	Time	Completed by

The 5 steps that must not be missed

- [ ] BEFORE
Remove every air bubble from the transducer line before connection.
Air in an arterial line can embolise distally or retrogradely to the cerebral circulation, and damps the trace.

- [ ] DURING
Never force the guidewire against resistance.
Withdraw the wire, reposition and try again; forcing it can dissect or perforate the artery.

- [ ] AFTER
Never inject drugs or infusions into an arterial line.
Intra-arterial injection can cause distal ischaemia, gangrene and limb loss.

- [ ] AFTER
Do not use glucose-containing solutions as the flush fluid.
Sampling contamination with glucose can give falsely high results and lead to harmful insulin dosing.

- [ ] AFTER
Remove the line immediately if there are signs of distal ischaemia.
Pallor, mottling, coolness, pain or loss of distal pulses.



The short list: an aid to memory, not the whole procedure. The full checklist is at the QR code. It does not replace your local protocol or your clinical judgement.