

Matching Needle Gauge to the Prescribed BFR

- Smaller needle gauge requires lower blood flow rates (BFRs)
- Needle gauge may be a specific physician order
- General needle gauge guidelines and maximum BFR with the pre-pump AP ≤ -200 to -250 mm Hg
 - 17-gauge needle = 200–250 BFR
 - 16-gauge needle = 250–350 BFR
 - 15-gauge needle = 350–450 BFR
 - 14-gauge needle = > 450 BFR
- Must monitor pre-pump AP to prevent excessive negative pressure from the blood pump drawing on the vascular access. Pre-pump AP should be ≤ -250 mm Hg for all needle gauges and BFRs

**Follow your unit-specific nursing policy and procedure for specific needle gauge and maximum BFR.*

Cannulation of the Arteriovenous Fistula (AVF)

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