Table 5 Assessing the Catheter and Infusion System

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| O = Observe | The fluid container and sets for   * Appropriate fluid level * Correct flow rate * Complete connections   The insertion site for   * All signs for complications * Adherence of dressing |
| P = Palpate | The insertion site for   * Alteration in skin temperature * Induration or cording of the vein |
| A = Aspirate | The catheter for   * A free-flowing blood return, followed by injection of normal saline to assess for resistance |
| L = Listen | To the patient for complaints of   * Pain, burning, stinging, and other strange sensations * Along the entire catheter pathway * Chest discomfort with all types of central venous catheters |

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