Standard of Care
Vascular Surgery

Objectives:
1. Blood supply will remain adequate distal to surgical site.
2. To provide patient education in order to assure understanding of postoperative care and enhance patient compliance.
3. To provide adequate pain relief.

Process Standards:
1. Check all pulses distal to surgical site every 15 minutes for the first hour, 30 minutes for the second hour and every hour after that.
2. Pulses are to be graded.
   0 absent
   +1 weak
   +2 normal
   +3 bounding
   Doppler
3. Temperature and color of extremities distal to surgical site are assessed and documented every shift.
4. Any bleeding or swelling at surgical site is documented and MD is notified.
5. The patient and or family will be educated regarding disease process, plan of care and surgical procedure.
6. Assess for, document and provide pain medications as ordered by the physician.

Outcome Standards:
1. There will be no loss of neurovascular status distal to the surgical site postoperatively.
2. Patient understands goals of postoperative care.
3. Patient will verbalize pain control.

Reference: