

Please note this is an EXAMPLE NURSING TIP SHEET and is to serve as an educational and organizational resource only. **Please always follow the policies and procedures for your institution and practice. Please always follow treating physician's orders.**

Nursing Tip: Breast Interstitial HDR Implant Removal

Pre-Implant Removal Assessment & Prep

Before the provider arrives, ensure the patient is physiologically and psychosocially prepared for the removal.

- **Pain Management:** Assess the patient's pain level. If PRN medications are ordered, administer them at least 30–45 minutes prior to the procedure.
- **Education:** Instruct the patient that sensations of *tugging or pressure* may occur, but sharp pain is not expected. Collaborate with the patient to identify and implement distraction techniques (e.g., conversation, music, guided breathing) during removal.

Positioning: Place the patient in a supine position or follow the instruction of the Radiation Oncologist.

- Position the arm of the affected side **above the head**, supported comfortably by pillows to expose the treatment field.
- Raise the bed to a comfortable working height for the provider.

Supply Checklist

Gather these items onto a clean bedside tray before the provider begins:

Category	Items Needed
PPE	Gown, goggles, and non-sterile gloves for yourself; sterile gloves for the provider.
Skin Prep	Betadine (118 ml) or 4% Chlorhexidine, 10 sterile Q-tips, and surgical towels.

Please note this is an EXAMPLE NURSING TIP SHEET and is to serve as an educational and organizational resource only. **Please always follow the policies and procedures for your institution and practice. Please always follow treating physician's orders.**

Category	Items Needed
Instrument s	2 Hemostats and Littauer (suture) scissors.
Dressings	10-pack of 4x4 gauze, Normal Saline (for post-removal cleaning), and Steri-Strips (common for IC/Intracavitary cases).
Monitoring	Telemetry monitors with BP cuff, HR leads, and Pulse Oximetry.

Intra-Procedure Nursing Actions

During the removal of Interstitial (IS) or Intracavitary (IC) implants:

1. **Monitor Vitals**
2. **Skin Site Prep:** Thoroughly clean all catheter insertion sites with betadine or the preferred antiseptic.
3. **The Removal:** Turn on overhead "spot" lights for maximum visibility.
 - Provide the provider with scissors/hemostats as they release the fixation sutures or devices.
 - **Nurse Role:** Use the distraction method. Keep the patient talking or focused on rhythmic breathing while the catheters are being pulled.
4. **Hemostasis:** Be ready with 4x4 gauze to apply immediate pressure to the insertion sites as catheters are removed.

Please note this is an EXAMPLE NURSING TIP SHEET and is to serve as an educational and organizational resource only. **Please always follow the policies and procedures for your institution and practice. Please always follow treating physician's orders.**

[! IMPORTANT]

Unexpected Bleeding: While rare in breast cases, if significant bleeding occurs, maintain firm pressure.

Post-Procedure & Discharge

Once the catheters are out and the sites are cleaned with normal saline:

Documentation (EMR)

- Record the number of catheters/balloons removed.
- Document the patient's tolerance of the procedure and final vital signs.
- Note the condition of the skin (e.g., redness, drainage, or bruising).