TAKING A 12 LEAD ECG

EQUIPMENT

- ECG machine and paper
- Electrodes
- Gauze swabs
- Razor
- Sharps bin
- Alcowipes
- Alcogel for hands

- Introduce yourself
- Identify the patient
- Provide factual explanation of the procedure and obtain consent
- Ensure dignity, confidence and self esteem are maintained throughout the procedure
- If possible input patient data into machine
- Prepare the equipment
- Ensure the environment is, private, warm, provide a blanket, place the bed at an appropriate level
- Assist patient to get in a supine position if possible
- When patient is not able to lay flat assist them to adopt a comfortable position which will optimise results
- Prepare patients skin as required (razor, alcowipe, gauze swabs)
- Hair- needs to be shaved
- Greasy skin should be washed and dried thoroughly
- Wipe the areas with an alcowipe, let it dry
- Rub patients skin with a gauze swab to gently abrade the skin
- 4 limb leads- One on each wrist and ankle
- 6 chest leads (precordial)- First identify anatomical features such as intercostals spaces, sternal margins, clavicle, axilla
• AVR Right arm
• AVL Left arm
• N Right leg
• AVF Left leg
• V1 Red 4\textsuperscript{th} intercostal space Right sternal margin
• V2 Yellow 4\textsuperscript{th} intercostal space Left sternal margin
• V3 Green equidistant from V2 and V4 in a diagonal line on top of breast tissue if necessary
• V4 Brown 5\textsuperscript{th} intercostal space- mid clavicular
• V5 Black 5\textsuperscript{th} intercostal space- anterior axillary line
• V6 Purple 5\textsuperscript{th} intercostals- mid axillary line
• V4, 5, 6 should be in a straight line
• Inform patient clearly and sensitively of any difficulties in obtaining an accurate recording. Measures taken to improve the quality of the ECG
• Check machine settings
• Date and sign the ECG
• Do not remove from the machine until the patients details have been written on the ECG
• Check patient name, date, time, ID number, place, your signature, variation from normal (chest pain, position) is recorded on the ECG
• Assist the patient to obtain a comfortable position following the ECG
• Leave the ECG machine clean, tidy and stocked ready for next use.