In this learning activity, you are asked to briefly describe the following potential complications of peripheral intravenous therapy.

**Infiltration**

**Extravasation**

**Phlebitis**

**Thrombophlebitis**

**Local Infection**

**Systemic Infection**

**Hyponatremia**

**Air Emboli**

**Allergic Reaction**

**Hypervolemia**
Answers for IV Complications

**Infiltration** is the unintentional administration of a nonvesicant solution or medication into surrounding tissue.

**Extravasation** is the leaking of vesicant drugs into surrounding tissue.

**Phlebitis** is defined as inflammation of a vein related to a chemical or mechanical irritation, or both.

**Thrombophlebitis** refers to the presence of a clot plus inflammation in the vein.

**Local infection** is usually the result of a breech of asepsis during or after catheter insertion.

**Systemic infections** are more widespread and pose a more serious risk to the client.

**Hyponatremia** is defined as serum sodium less than 135 mmol/L.

An **air embolus** is defined as a significant amount of air introduced into the circulatory system causing blockage of the pulmonary capillaries.

**Allergic reactions** are the product of immune responses in the body to antigens. In the case of intravenous infusions, the most common reactions are to medications, blood and blood products.

**Hypervolemia** can be produced from an excess of IV fluids leading to fluid accumulation in the lungs (pulmonary edema).