



CHANGE CONCEPT # 4

Surgeon Selection Based on Best Outcomes, Willingness and Ability to Provide Access Services

*The Florida
ESRD
Network is
Here to
Help!*

- Nephrologists communicate expectations to surgeons regarding AVF placement and training in current AVF surgical techniques, based on K/DOQI Guidelines and best practices.
- Nephrologists refer to surgeons willing and able to meet AVF expectations based on K/DOQI and best practices.
- Surgeons are continuously evaluated on frequency, quality and patency of access placements. Data collection and outcomes tracking ideally initiated and reported at the dialysis center as part of ongoing CQI process and can be aggregated at the Network level.

Assess your Barriers to Surgeon Selection Based on Best Outcomes —

1. Nephrologists and surgeons not taking responsibility.
2. Nephrologist and surgeon have a long-term relationship.
3. Local vascular surgeon's quality and patency of AVF creation does not reflect best practices.
4. Skilled surgeons are located too far from the facility.
5. The surgeon is unapproachable and not receptive.
6. Insurance coverage requires use of certain surgeons.

Interventions to Barriers

1. Share the Fistula First Change Concept #4 information and K/DOQI Guidelines with all of your nephrologists and surgeons.
2. Discuss which surgeons are supportive and skilled to meet K/DOQI AVF expectations and best practice with your nephrologists and plan a strategy for referrals.
3. Track vascular access placement and functional status by surgeon monthly as part of your QI process. Share this data with your surgeons and your nephrologists.
4. In collaboration with nephrologist, select surgeons for referral based on skill and outcomes with AVF creation.
5. Discuss your patient's AVF needs with their insurance company's case manager.
6. Visit the Florida ESRD Network website for Fistula First educational information for physicians, staff and patients at www.fmqai.com/ESRD/esrd.htm. Click on Fistula First, then Resources and Tools, then Fistula First Toolkit.
7. Share these vascular access websites with your surgeons and nephrologists.
www.vascularaccesssociety.com www.asdin.org



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