



Secondary AV Fistula Placement in Patients with AV Grafts

*The Florida
ESRD
Network is
Here to
Help!*

- Nephrologists evaluate every AV Graft for possible secondary AV Fistula, including mapping as indicated, and document plan in patient's record.
- Dialysis facility staff and/or rounding nephrologists examine outflow vein of all forearm graft patients ("sleeves up") during dialysis treatments (minimum=monthly) to identify patients who may have suitable upper outflow vein for elective secondary AV Fistula conversion in upper arm.
- Inform nephrologist and surgeon of need to evaluate identified outflow vein for AV Fistula conversion.
- Nephrologist refers to surgeon for evaluation/placement of secondary AV Fistula BEFORE failure of AV Graft.

Assess Your Barriers to Appropriate Surgical Approaches —

1. Nephrologists not evaluating AV Grafts for outflow or requesting mapping.
2. Dialysis facility staff not trained to perform outflow assessment on AV Grafts.
3. AV Graft patients being referred for AV Fistula placement only if problems arise with the functioning of the AV Graft.

Interventions to Barriers

1. Share the Fistula First Change Concept #6 information and K/DOQI Guidelines with all of your nephrologists, surgeons and interventional radiologists.
2. In collaboration with nephrologist, routinely evaluate all AV Grafts (prior to clotting) for possible secondary AV Fistula conversion and document findings.
3. Share the attached "Sleeves Up" Protocol for Conversion of Forearm AVG to Upper Arm AVF with nephrologists and the entire dialysis nursing team.
4. Routinely monitor AVF and AVG flow rates/pressures for stenosis using K/DOQI recommended procedures.
5. 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.
6. Share these vascular access websites with your surgeons, radiologists and nephrologists for articles related to successful AV Graft conversion. www.vascularaccesssociety.com www.asdin.org www.ihl.org/IHI/Topics/ESRD/VascularAccess.htm



Florida Medical Quality Assurance, Inc. (FMQAI)
The Florida ESRD Network

4350 W. Cypress St., Suite 900
Tampa, FL 33607
Phone: 813-383-1530, ext. 5
Fax: 813-354-1514
Website: www.fmqai.com/ESRD/esrd.htm
Email: info@nw7.esrd.net