



## AV Fistula Placement in Patients with Catheters where Indicated

**CHANGE CONCEPT #7**

*The Florida  
ESRD  
Network is  
Here to  
Help!*

- Regardless of prior access (e.g. AV Graft), nephrologists and surgeons evaluate all catheter patients as soon as possible for AV Fistula, including mapping as indicated.
- Facility implements protocol to track all catheter patients for early removal of catheter.
- Nephrologists make every effort not to admit patients to clinic with "catheter only."

### *Assess Your Barriers to Appropriate Surgical Approaches —*

1. Nephrologists not evaluating all catheter patients for AV Fistula placement.
2. Some patients using catheters refuse to have AV Fistula placed.
3. Dialysis staff unable to track catheter patients.
4. Physicians continue to admit new patients to the dialysis unit with only a catheter for vascular access.

### *Interventions to Barriers*

1. Share the Fistula First Change Concept #7 information and K/DOQI Guidelines with all of your nephrologists, surgeons and interventional radiologists.
2. In collaboration with nephrologist, routinely evaluate all catheter patients for possible AV Fistula placement, including mapping as indicated.
3. Share the attached DOPPS Study results with nephrologists, patients and the entire dialysis nursing team.
4. Evaluate status of AV Fistula placement plans within the first 3 treatments for new patients admitted with a catheter only and document findings.
5. Review your facility AV Fistula, AV Graft and CVC rates with your QI Team monthly during your facility CQI review.
6. Utilize the "Vascular Access Tracking by Surgeon and Nephrologist" tool to track access placement for all catheter patients. This can be found on the Network website in the "Focus on Fistula" Change Concepts listing at [www.fmqai.com/ESRD/esrd.htm](http://www.fmqai.com/ESRD/esrd.htm).
7. Educate all catheter patients of the high mortality and morbidity rates associated with central venous catheter use.
8. Share these vascular access websites with your surgeons, radiologists and nephrologists for articles related to successful AV Fistula placement. [www.vascularaccesssociety.com](http://www.vascularaccesssociety.com) [www.asdin.org](http://www.asdin.org) [www.ihl.org/IHI/Topics/ESRD/VascularAccess.htm](http://www.ihl.org/IHI/Topics/ESRD/VascularAccess.htm)



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