



Monitoring and Maintenance to Ensure Adequate Access Function

*The Florida
ESRD
Network is
Here to
Help!*

- Nephrologists and surgeons conduct post-operative physical evaluation of AVFs in 4 weeks to detect early signs of failure and refer for diagnostic study and remedial intervention as indicated.
- Facilities adopt standard procedures for monitoring, surveillance and timely referral for the failing AVF.
- Nephrologists, interventional radiologists and surgeons adopt standard criteria, and a plan for each patient, to determine the appropriate extent of intervention on an existing access before evaluating and mapping for an AVF.

Assess Your Barriers to Ensuring Adequate AV Fistula Function —

1. Our patients are not scheduled for an appointment with the surgeon once the AVF is placed, unless there is a problem with the access.
2. We refer patients for vascular access interventions only when we are unable to use the access.
3. A standard criteria of appropriate intervention for existing vascular access has not been established.

Interventions to Barriers

1. Schedule post-operative AVF evaluation with surgeon 4 weeks after AVF placement.
2. Assess patient post-op and weekly for symptoms of ischemia / steal syndrome.
3. In collaboration with nephrologist, establish specific protocol for staff use to monitor AV Fistulas for stenosis.
4. In collaboration with nephrologist, determine specific criteria and appropriate intervention for failing AV Fistulas.
5. Evaluate the functioning status of new AV Fistulas each dialysis treatment by inspection and palpation for pulse and thrill at the arterial, mid and venous sections of the access.
6. Initiate appropriate intervention upon identification of inadequate flow, significant venous stenosis and aneurysm formation .
7. Use direct flow monitoring techniques if available, as they are more accurate for monitoring AV Fistulas, i.e. intra-access flow measures.
8. Download Fistula First information and other tools found in the Fistula First Toolkit on the ESRD Network website at www.fmqai.com/ESRD/tools.htm.
9. Visit the new Fistula First website at www.fistulafirst.org.
10. Inform nephrologists and surgeons of 10.5 AMA PRA Category 1 credits available with completion of "Creating AV Fistulas in All Eligible Hemodialysis Patients" continuing medical education on-line training course at www.fistulafirst.org. Click on course title to open.

