



## The Florida ESRD Network

### *Educational Series # 1* *Vascular Access Monitoring / Surveillance*

This is the **first** of four educational series targeted to address vascular access monitoring/surveillance. The objectives for this educational series are to provide information pertaining to vascular access evaluation to detect possible signs of access dysfunction, recognize various methods available for vascular access monitoring and surveillance, and provide recommendations to incorporate access monitoring/surveillance results in the patient's plan of care and facility's Quality Improvement Program.

The K/DOQI Guideline "Detection of Access Dysfunction: Monitoring, Surveillance, and Diagnostic Testing" addresses recommendations for vascular access monitoring, surveillance, and diagnostic testing.

The following statement is taken directly from the new ESRD Conditions for Coverage published in April, 2008; "***The patient's vascular access must be monitored to prevent access failure, including monitoring of arteriovenous grafts and fistulae for symptoms of stenosis.***"

Vascular access patency is essential for optimal management of hemodialysis adequacy. A vascular access-monitoring/surveillance program, in association with correction of identified stenosis, may result in improvement of access patency rates, and decrease the incidence of access thrombosis. Low blood flow rate and loss of patency may contribute to underdialysis, resulting in extended treatment times, and, can have a consequence on morbidity and mortality. Clinical assessment of the vascular access in conjunction with hemodialysis adequacy measurements should be collected, maintained, and reviewed as part of the facility CQI program.

The K/DOQI Clinical Practice Guidelines for vascular access define the following terms:

***Monitoring*** is the examination and evaluation of the vascular access by means of physical examination to detect physical signs that suggest the presence of dysfunction.

***Surveillance*** is the periodic evaluation of the vascular access by using tests that may involve special instrumentation and for which an abnormal test result suggests the presence of dysfunction.

***Diagnostic testing*** is the specialized testing that is prompted by some abnormality or other medical indication, and that is undertaken to diagnose the cause of the vascular access dysfunction.

There are a number of monitoring and surveillance methods available. Vascular access monitoring is addressed in series # 2.

**Additional information can be located in the K/DOQI Guidelines at**  
<http://www.kidney.org/PROFESSIONALS/kdoqi/guidelines.cfm>

The Florida ESRD Network (Network 7) is providing this fax blast as a technical assistance activity for the Florida renal community.

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