



## WHAT PROFESSIONALS CAN DO TO MAXIMIZE AVF AS PRIMARY ACCESS

The formation, maintenance and care of a vascular access involves the coordination and skills of multiple healthcare professionals. Each professional has a specific role and set of responsibilities in assuring that ESRD patients are provided with quality vascular access services. A healthcare team working in collaboration and following recommended practice guidelines CAN MAKE a difference in maximizing the use of native arteriovenous fistulae (AVF).

<p><b>NEPHROLOGIST/INTERNIST Leadership:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Familiarize themselves with and implement applicable NKF-DOQI practice guidelines and Fistula First Change Concepts.</li> <li>• Refer pre-ESRD patients for timely permanent access placement.</li> <li>• Advocate for appropriate access selection and placement with surgeons.</li> <li>• Participate in and support staff vascular access education initiatives.</li> <li>• Implement access monitoring and intervention protocols at the facility level.</li> <li>• Educate and encourage patients to seek AVF as a permanent access.</li> </ul>	<p><b>NURSE/TECHNICIAN Leadership:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Familiarize themselves with and help implement applicable NKF-DOQI guidelines and Fistula First Change Concepts.</li> <li>• Educate pre-ESRD patients about importance of AVF, and encourage them to seek AVF as permanent access.</li> <li>• Participate in routine monitoring access programs for stenosis and complications, and prompt referral if abnormal findings (e.g. stenosis, recirculation, unexplained decreased Kt/V).</li> <li>• Rotate needle cannulation sites (except if using “buttonhole technique”).</li> <li>• Use cannulation experts for new AVF</li> </ul>	<p><b>SURGEON/INTERVENTIONALIST Leadership:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Familiarize themselves with and help implement applicable NKF-DOQI guidelines and Fistula First Change Concepts.</li> <li>• Educate patients about the importance of permanent access.</li> <li>• Work collaboratively with Nephrologists, with goal of placing AVF as permanent access in all patients whenever possible.</li> <li>• Utilize pre-surgical vein mapping to maximize access outcomes.</li> <li>• Act as a resource for vascular access education for dialysis facility staff, and participate in quality improvement projects.</li> </ul>
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