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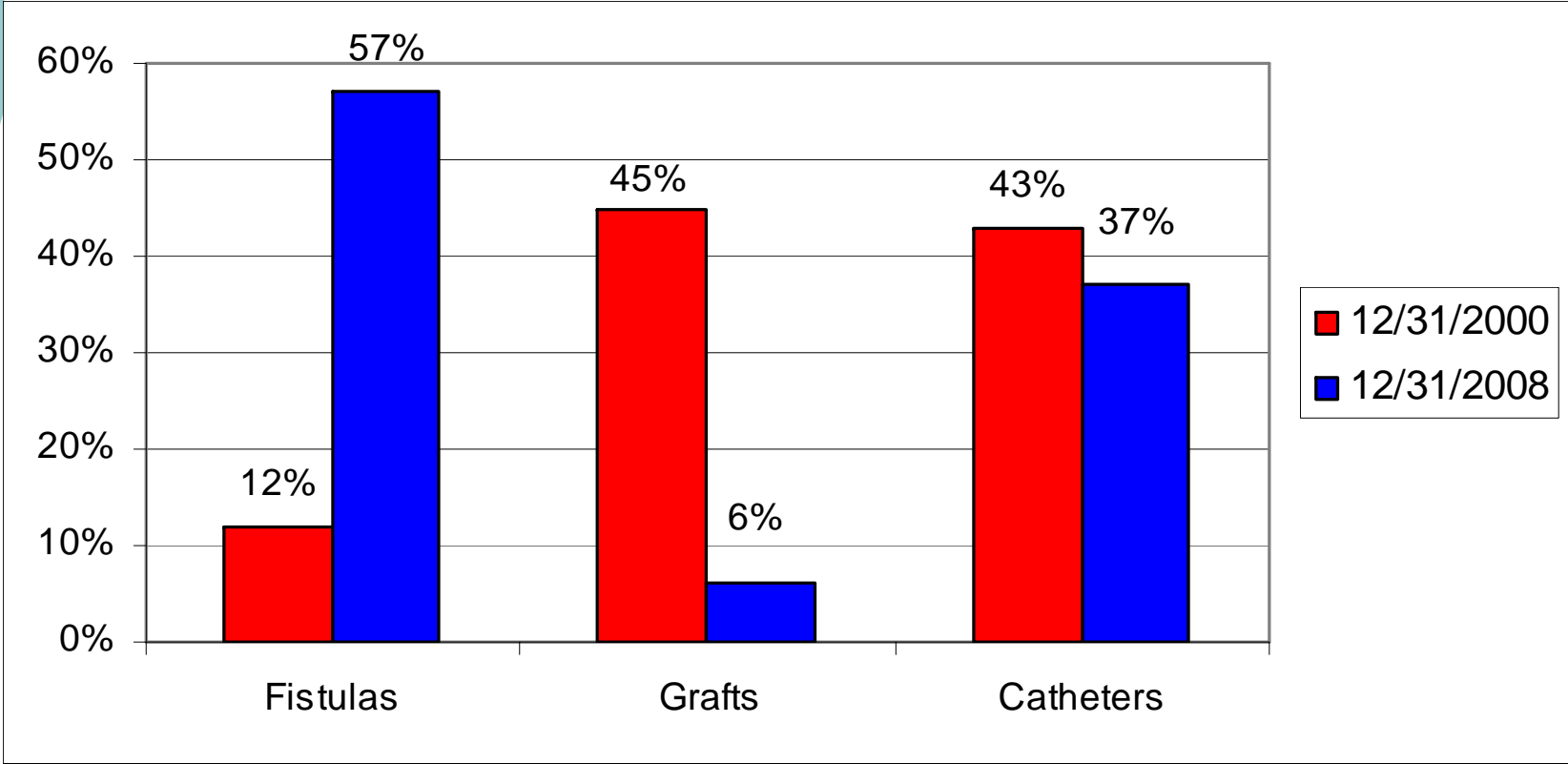
CARE CENTERS

# Developing a Vascular Access Program

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# RAI Care Center: Muncie 2000-2008 Comparison





## Objectives

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- Build a program that would invite open communication and respect for all disciplines
- Develop algorithms to preserve, develop and maintain accesses.
- Implement policies and pathways so everyone has clear guidelines to follow when access problems arise.
- Follow QDOKI guidelines to decrease catheters and increase fistulas.

# Identifying the Problems

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- Poor communication
- Delayed access procedures
- Poor follow up
- Minimal Radiology intervention
- Poor cooperation between Surgeons and Radiologist.
- Too many catheters
- Need for more fistulas
- Staff frustration
- **Need for change**





# Getting Started

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## **Medical director:**

- Instrumental in starting the program
- Appointed as the leader
- Shared our concerns with Surgeons and Radiologist

## **Access Coordinator:**

- Scheduled monthly access meetings
- Established communication between disciplines
- Identified access concerns and collect data

## **Acute Manager:**

- Coordinating in hospital and post procedure care
- Maintained open communication with the out patient center

## **Staff Educator:**

- Provided on going education to all care givers
- Initiate Pre-renal program.

**We were soon invited to join the “Fistula First” project**

# Established Protocols

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**Don't re-invent the wheel. Many of our protocols and pathways were adopted from Network resources. We modified them to suit our needs.**

**Catheter dysfunction:**

To Specials for replacement

**Clotted fistulas:**

To Specials for declot within 24 hours

**Clotted Graft:**

Surgeon to decide if patient has declot in Specials or Surgery.

(Can't remember the last time patient was declotted in surgery)

**Fistula or Graft dysfunction:**

Access Coordinator schedules intervention after approval received from the surgeon.

Surgeon notified/time and date of procedure.

**Cannulating new fistulas**

Only master cannulators are assigned to start new fistulas utilizing the cannulation pathway

**Incident Patients:**

Have Access Management pathway initiated within one week

# What Worked

- **Scheduled meetings to accommodate the Surgeons and Radiologist**
- **Offered CMEs**
- **Plan to meet for one hour**
- **Reviewed six patients each meeting**
- **Have past access history available for patients being reviewed**
- **Memo sent to all disciplines prior to each meeting with a list of patients to be discussed**
- **Present articles, encourage new ideas**
- **Followed DOQI guidelines**
- **All disciplines agreed to follow the policies and pathways**
- **Involve Surgeons and Radiologist in the “Fistula First” projects**
- **Build a good rapport with the Surgical office staff and Radiology staff**
  
- **Most important.....Provide doughnuts and coffee at each meeting**



## Lessons Learned

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- Limit time spent reviewing stats, the docs would rather focus on the procedures and outcomes.
- Be prepared and organized
- Don't take it personal, allow discussions and disagreements to happen, growth usually occurs





# What Happened

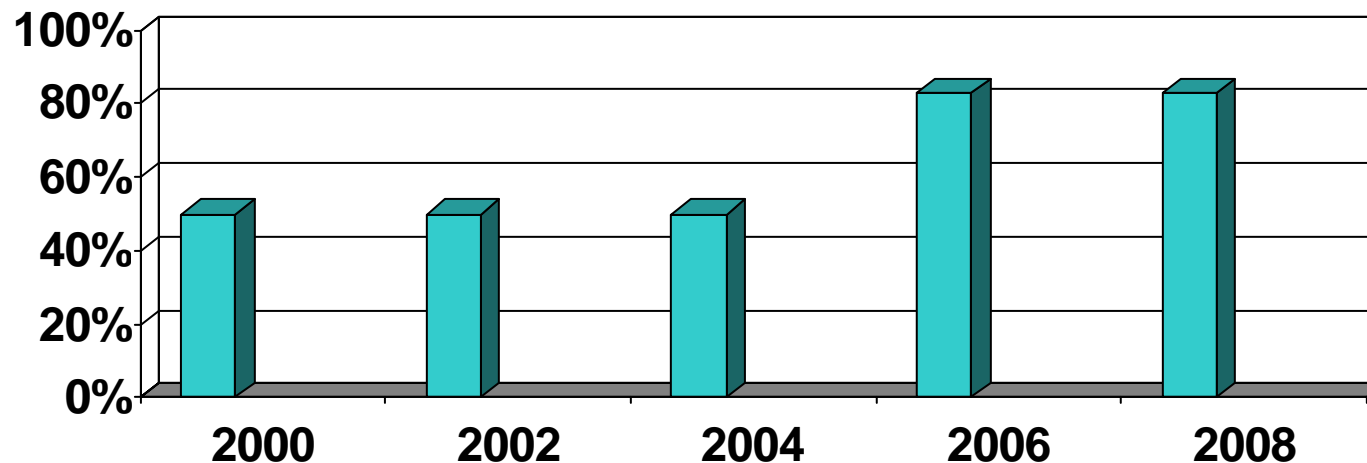
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- Surgeons and Radiologist became Allies
- Meeting attendance grew
- All disciplines communicate
- Patients have better outcomes
- Fistulas placement increased
- Accesses are being salvaged
- Frustration has decreased
- Greater respect for nurses opinions
- We now work as a TEAM

# Surgeon Attendance At Monthly Access Meeting

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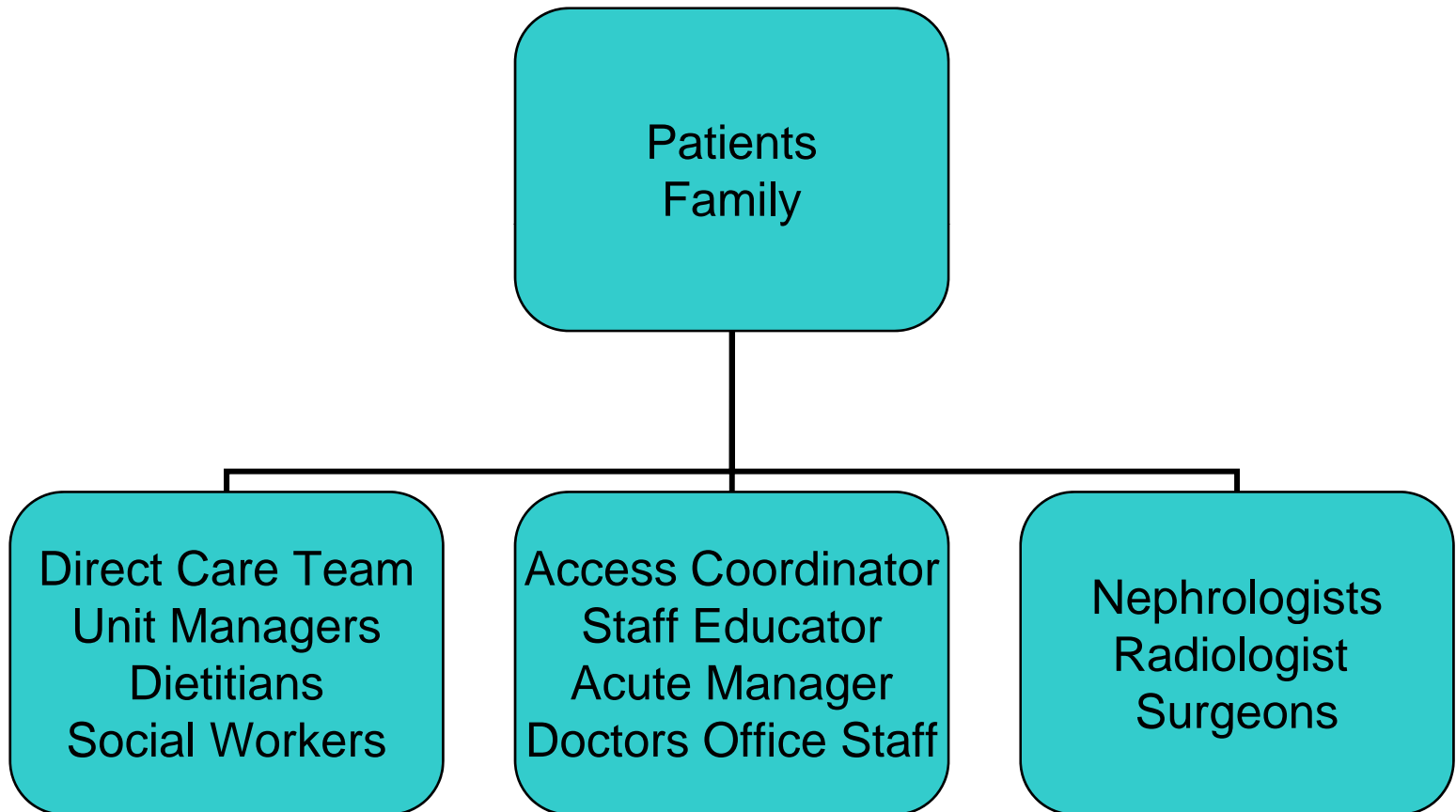
- RAI Muncie utilizes two surgical groups for access placement.
- Each surgical groups is comprised of 3 surgeons.





# Our Team Today

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## How we stay connected

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- Continuity of Care meetings are held weekly to discuss patient issues.
- Vascular Access meeting held monthly to review patient procedures, outcomes and decide if further intervention is needed.
- CQI meetings monthly
- Pre-Renal Program held quarterly
- Ongoing education programs for patients and staff.



## How We Increased Our Fistula Rates

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- Rapid referral to the surgeon for access evaluation
- Vein Mapping mandatory
- Only fistulas to be placed
- Follow up at 2-4 and 6 weeks to evaluate maturity
- Access monitoring and quick intervention to salvage fistulas
- Surgeons became more creative placing fistulas
- Education.....



# Fistula Outcomes

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*50 fistulas placed 2008*

- Fistula in use 26 52%
- Failed 5 10%
- Pt expired 6 10%
- Pt transplanted 1 2%
- Fistula maturing 12 24%
  
- Interventions 10 (20%)  
7 currently in use; 3 still maturing



# Barriers to Decreasing Catheters

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## **32 catheters currently in use**

- 19 permanent catheters 59%
- 7 bridge catheters 22%
- 6 waiting access placement 19%

## **Barriers**

- 1. 15 of the 19 permanent catheters are pts that refuse permanent access placement.**
- 2. Incident patients starting with only a catheter**



# TAKE CHARGE!

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- Quarterly Pre-Renal Education class.
- Referrals received from nephrologists.
- Participants contacted 1 week before class as reminder.
- Information presented by RN, MSW, RD.
- Class is approximately 1½ hrs in length.
- Follow-up letter with class roster to nephrologists.



# TAKE CHARGE!

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- Utilize PowerPoint presentation.
- Topics include
  - An overview of kidney function, causes of CKD
  - Modalities for treatment of CKD
  - Coping with CKD
  - Dietary considerations
- Access Coordinator attends.
- Props include CAPD exchange using dummy tummy, NxStage machine.



## Impact of TAKE CHARGE!

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- Slight increase in # of patients starting dialysis with permanent access in place.
- Increase in interaction among participants during the session.
- Some participants have scheduled to tour dialysis facility, talk with Home Therapy patient.
- Positive feedback on evaluations.



# Accomplishments

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## Fistula rates for Indiana RAI Care Centers

- Muncie 57%
- Daleville 61%
- Granville 46%
- New Castle 64%
- Winchester 82%