

A Team Approach to Vascular Access Management



Davita Sycamore Dialysis

Amanda Hale, RN

Group Facility Administrator



Begin Initiative

- ✦ Conduct team meetings and set goals (include physicians)
- ✦ Handouts to patients regarding facility fistula first initiative
- ✦ Brightly colored posters directed towards patients in waiting room
- ✦ Posters directed towards team in break room, restroom, etc.



Team Roles

- ✦ Vascular Access Manager
- ✦ Registered Nurse
- ✦ Facility Administrator
- ✦ Medical Director
- ✦ Access Center Representative



Vascular Access Manager

- ✦ Teammate excited about the role, not a delegated position (“active and eager”)
- ✦ Full time clinical teammate with schedule variety (PCT, RN)
 - Teammate will be at facility often to be a resource to other teammates
 - Teammate will be experienced with patients on all days and shifts



Vascular Access Manager Continued...

- Provides information for monthly review of vascular access with care plan team
 - Allow teammate to create own style of reporting. This will allow the teammate to have ownership and lead to commitment to role.
 - Report should include: date, patient name, location of current CVC, intervention planned, planned date, information resource (per patient, family member, surgeon's office, etc.)



Vascular Access Manager Continued...

- ✦ Develops relationship with patient and family and shares benefits of Fistula First
- ✦ Creates attention grabbing posters, handouts, etc to attract attention to Fistula First initiative
- ✦ Relentless communication to team with facility's vascular access statistics



Vascular Access Manager Continued...

- ✦ Cannulates new fistulas
- ✦ Attends educational opportunities regarding Fistula First initiative and cannulation workshops
- ✦ Disseminates information from workshops to team
- ✦ Cannulation resource to fellow technicians



Vascular Access Manager Continued...

- Use of transonic monitoring of existing access and reporting unfavorable findings to RN



Registered Nurse

- ✦ Same preliminary guidelines as Vascular Access Manager
- ✦ Participate in monthly review of vascular access
- ✦ Round with rounding nephrologist on patients without fistulas or those with troubled fistulas to develop care plan



Registered Nurse Continued...

- ✦ Enforces facility specific protocol for beginning use of fistula and assigns most skilled cannulators to cannulate
- ✦ Provide constant education to all patients without fistulas and reinforce the benefits of fistulas to patients that currently have them



Registered Nurse Continued...

- ✦ Examine outflow vein of all forearm graft patients during treatment and inform nephrologists of findings
- ✦ Work directly with vascular access center to schedule prompt fistula placement, catheter removal, fistulograms, and other interventions



Registered Nurse Continued...

- ✦ Available to provide education and support to dialysis team and patients related to vascular accesses
- ✦ Shares creative approaches with patients who have anxiety related to pain from cannulation to minimize discomfort



Facility Administrator

- ✦ Keep team informed of progress!
- ✦ Participate in monthly review of vascular accesses and disseminate information to team
- ✦ Round with rounding nephrologist on patients without fistulas or those with troubled fistulas to develop care plan



Facility Administrator Continued...

- ✦ Celebrates Fistula First successes with patients and team
- ✦ Verify all new dialysis patients with CVC's to facility have appointment with Fistula First surgeon arranged
- ✦ Share positive experiences with surgeons with physicians and other facilities



Facility Administrator Continued...

- ✦ Have information regarding benefits of fistula visible to patients in waiting room through literature, etc.
- ✦ Provide availability to team to attend educational opportunities and workshops related to vascular accesses



Facility Administrator Continued...

- ✦ Provide routine in center in-services and continuing education



Medical Director

- ✦ Participate in monthly review of vascular accesses
- ✦ Encourage the practice of discharging CVC patients with plans for fistula placement already arranged
- ✦ Referring all Stage 4 CKD patients to Fistula First Surgeon



Medical Director Continued...

- ✦ Educating patients, family members and caregivers to benefits of fistulas
- ✦ Educating patients with grafts to the benefits of conversion to a secondary fistula and encouraging conversion
- ✦ Evaluate all new fistulas within first four weeks of placement and order interventions as needed



Medical Director Continued...

- ✦ Allowing facility to utilize PRN orders for referral to vascular access center



Access Center Representative

- Provide facility with prompt feedback after interventions
 - Drawings and tips for cannulation
 - Printouts from dye studies
 - Findings
 - Provided via phone calls and fax



Access Center Rep Continued...

- ✦ In-service dialysis unit teammates on vascular access related topics
- ✦ Provide communication between dialysis unit and access center physicians
- ✦ Educate patients with catheters or grafts and family members on benefits of Fistula First



All Teammates

- ✦ Relentless communication
- ✦ Aware of status of new accesses
- ✦ Assist patients with using telephone at facility to schedule appointments
- ✦ Discuss Fistula First with every CVC patient every time they are putting them on or taking them off of treatment



All Teammates Continued...

- ✦ Celebrate fistula success with patients – Cheer them on!
- ✦ Continuing Education
 - Attend in-services
 - Take computer learning courses
 - Review literature



Conclusion

- ✦ Fistula First Initiatives require a team approach.
- ✦ Think “outside of the box” to encourage your patients to take this step for optimal outcomes
- ✦ Schedule regular team meetings to evaluate improvement processes and to plan next steps

RESULTS

