

Development of a Comprehensive Vascular Access Program

Community Dialysis Units, LLC
Kimberly Kerns, RN BSN CHN
Vascular Access Coordinator

First Step

- Moved an experienced dialysis RN into the role of Vascular Access Coordinator.
- Held a CQI Meeting with Management team which included:
 - Each Clinic Manager
 - The Administrator
 - The Medical Directors

Vascular Access Coordinator Qualifications

- Must be extremely knowledgeable about dialysis and vascular access.
- Must have had “hands-on experience” with dialysis patients and a thorough understanding of all the issues involved in optimizing vascular access.
- Must be very organized, efficient, and detail oriented.
- Must have excellent communication skills.
- Must be able to meet multiple demands without becoming flustered and without losing his/her temper.

Vascular Access Coordinator

First Steps

- Began by forming a team of Ohio Certified Dialysis Technicians (OCDT's).
- Started implementing evidence based practice which incorporated the “11 Change Concepts”.
- Reviewed and made changes to standards of care policies and procedures.
- Developed protocols to address access issues.
- Identified a goal to increase # of prevalent patients with AVF while decreasing the number of CVC patients.

Ohio Certified Dialysis Technicians

- Senate Bill 111 was signed into Law March 28, 2000. This requires that all dialysis patient care technicians in the State of Ohio be certified to practice.
- The goal was to protect the facilities use of dialysis technicians with the same level of responsibilities.
- This law will also ensure the public that their safety is being protected.

Technician Responsibilities

- Monitor vascular access through use of Transonic on monthly basis.
- Ongoing monitoring of accesses (AVF; AVG or Catheters) reporting any findings to the RN's.
- Ongoing monitoring of new fistulas for maturation, cannulation readiness (ALL STAFF).
- Provide ongoing patient education (ALL STAFF).

Vascular Access Coordinators Responsibilities

- Acts as liaison between nephrologists, surgeons, intervention centers, and the dialysis facilities to coordinate care.
- Measures facilities' staff competencies related to cannulation technique and ability of each individual.
- Train facility staff on “buttonhole” techniques for AVF Cannulation.
- Quarterly In-service on how to improve our practice in regards to Vascular Access.

Vascular Access Coordinator Responsibilities Continued

- Reviews monthly access CQI data with management team.
- Patient Education in regards to Vascular Access.
- Network Reporting in regards to Vascular Access.

Lessons Learned

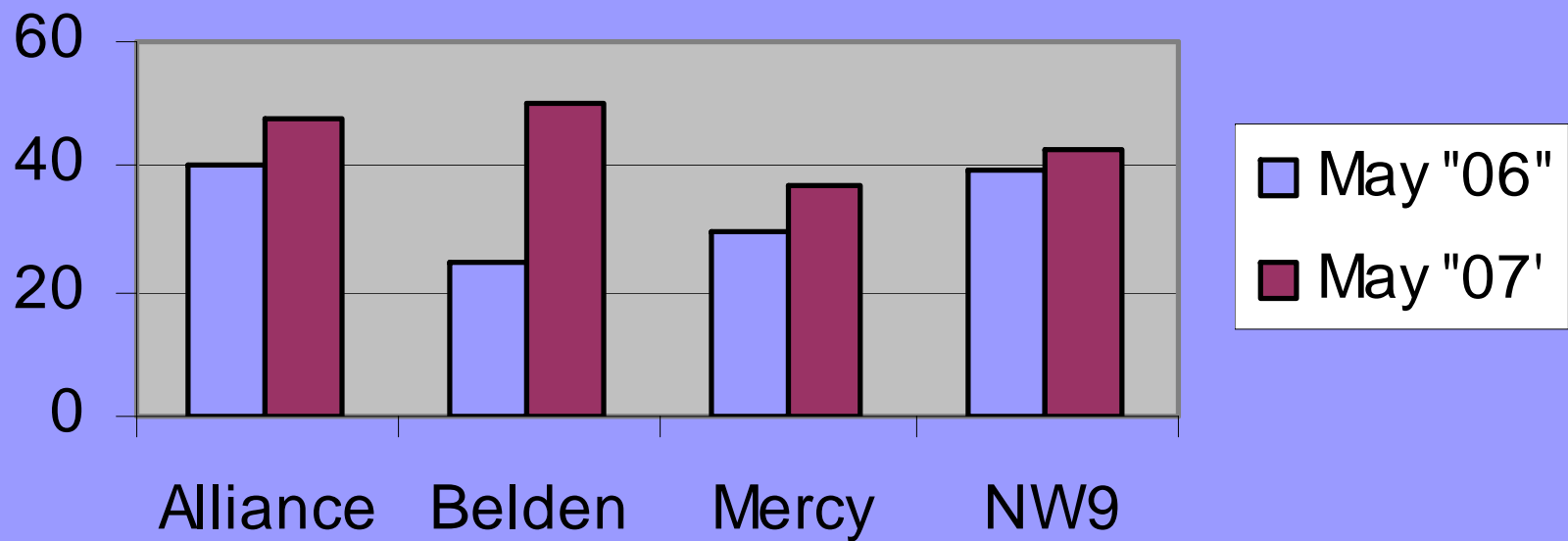
- Monitoring of accesses has led to early intervention of access complications.
- Early intervention helps in preventing catheter placement or reduce catheter time.
- Monthly Access CQI data review shared with team members and Medical Director assists in appropriate decision making.

Tools Used

- Used Network Tools from Website.
- Staff Rating System for Cannulation vs. Master Cannulators.
- Catheter Performance Tracking Form.
- Use of Flow Charts (Available on Fistula First Website).
- Renesan Software (Dialysis Access Management System).

Community Dialysis Fistula Rates Improvement

Fistula Rates



Community Dialysis Catheter Rates

Catheter Rates

