A Team Approach to Vascular Access Management

Davita Sycamore Dialysis
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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
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
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.
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
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
Educating patients, family members and caregivers to the 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.
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
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.
% fistula

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