

# *Vascular Access Management*

## A Toolkit for Medical Directors

Produced by  
FFBI Community Education Workgroup  
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# What is the Role of the Medical Director in Vascular Access (VA) Management?

- Process development
  - Leads monthly vascular access meeting and review with interdisciplinary team
- Protocol oversight
  - Ensure policies reflect current standards of care & best practice
- Ensure quality education and competency of staff
- Communication with other clinicians (nephrologist, NP, PA)
- Ensuring unit has VA Management Program in place:
  - Vascular Access Coordinator responsible for monthly progress reporting
  - Tracking process
  - Patient education



# What do the *Conditions for Coverage* say about Medical Director Responsibilities?

- Ensures quality patient care and outcomes ( V 710 )
  - Follows Vascular Access Guidelines per Measures Assessment Tool (MAT)  
[http://www.nraa.org/Documents/SC-09-01\\_ESRDIGs1%201\\_memo.pdf](http://www.nraa.org/Documents/SC-09-01_ESRDIGs1%201_memo.pdf)
- Has active involvement in oversight of facility patient care delivery and outcomes ( V711 )
  - Attends and contributes during his/her own patients' interdisciplinary meetings
  - Participates in performance improvement plans
    - Reviews quality indicators related to improved patient health outcomes (V712)
  - Manages staff education
    - Ensures that staff receive appropriate education and training to competently perform their job responsibilities ( V 713 )

# What are the Barriers to the Medical Director Role in VA Management?

- Patient right of refusal to comply with VA recommendations
  - “Informed Non-Consent” refers to the clinician’s responsibility to explain the harm of long-term CVC use

*Rehman R, Schmidt R, Moss A. Ethical and Legal Obligation to Avoid Long-Term Tunneled Catheter Access. Clin J Am Soc Nephrol 4: 456–460, 2009*

- Competing responsibilities
- Weak communication with surgeons and interventionalists
- Necessity to enhance ongoing staff training regarding evaluation and cannulation of AV fistulas and grafts
- Clinicians that do not promote AV fistulas

# How Do You Address the Clinicians Without “Ownership” in Your Unit?

- Utilize written agreement to establish clinician VA responsibilities upon application for privileges  
([Nephrology Clinician Agreement](#))
- Invite clinician(s) to monthly vascular access meetings
  - Collaborative learning sessions discussing:
    - Best Demonstrated Practices
    - Different topic/speaker each month
    - Minutes distributed for those who cannot attend
- Share comparative data with other clinician(s) and units
- Share outcomes data for clinician’s patients



# How to Establish a Working Relationship with Access Surgeons and Interventionalists

- Include engaged surgeons and interventionalists in development of unit protocols
  - Access evaluation and management
  - Staff education
- Involve surgeons and interventionalists in unit quality improvement activities
- Share broad outcomes data
  - Maturation rates, failure rates, additional required interventions
  - Past and current incident and prevalent AVF rates
  - Hospitalization rates
  - Infection rates

# Useful Resources for Building Relationships with Access Surgeons and Interventionalists

- Resources available to enhance surgical outcomes
  - Fistula First Website - [www.fistulafirst.org](http://www.fistulafirst.org)
  - Surgical training videos
  - Surgical mentors
  - Regional conferences on surgical technique
- Resources for establishing hospital programs for early surgical referral and follow-up
  - <http://www.fistulafirst.org/HealthcareProfessionals/FFBIChangeConcepts/ChangeConcept12.aspx>
  - <http://www.renalmd.org/page.aspx?id=2544&terms=vascular+access>
  - <http://www.annanurse.org>



# Available Tools for VA Management

- FFBI Website - [www.fistulafirst.org](http://www.fistulafirst.org)
  - Change concepts and associated tools
  - Surgical training videos
  - Vascular access atlas
  - Staff training videos
- ESRD Forum MAC Catheter Reduction Toolkit  
<http://esrdnetworks.org/mac-toolkits>
  - Access management spreadsheet
  - Catheter Only timeline worksheet
  - QAPI tools
  - Referral letter template
  - Refusal letter template