Why Do We need a Vascular Access Coordinator?

Interdisciplinary Team

Dialysis Access Care Team (DACT)

Dialysis Access: Nephrologist as Lead

CMS Conditions for Coverage

1 Disclosure - employee of Fresenius Medical Care North America
Fistula First Change Concept 1

- Planning and care for vascular access spans many disciplines and settings; and breakdowns in communication put patients at risk for sub-optimal treatment.

- Staff member, preferably RN, assigned to the VAC role
- VAC given adequate time and authority
- VAC coordinates efforts of VA team members
- Process in place to identify and evaluate all patients at least monthly:
  - CVC only
  - Non-maturing AVF
  - Dysfunctional AVG

- VAC collaborates with charge nurse to ensure expert cannulators for new AVFs
- Process in place to identify and evaluate all new AVF at least monthly
  - Process includes early referral for non-maturing or problem AVF
- Referrals to interventionalist or surgeon include specific information about access problems

Various VAM or VAC Models

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Scope of Role</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>VAM</td>
<td>Dialysis Clinic</td>
<td>CVC Reduction Only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VAM</td>
<td>Dialysis Clinic</td>
<td>CVC Reduction and Active Access Monitoring, Surveillance, Plan of Care and Care Coordination with DACT Local content expert/resource Consistent clinic presence and availability</td>
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<tr>
<td>VAC</td>
<td>Multiple Dialysis Clinics</td>
<td>CVC Reduction and Active Access Monitoring, Surveillance, Plan of Care and Care Coordination with DACT (still requires a clinic based VAM to support VAC with daily events) Remote resource Inconsistent clinic presence and availability</td>
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<tr>
<td>VAC</td>
<td>DACT (Surgeon/IR/IN)</td>
<td>Coordinates care for surgical and interventions with local clinic VAM or staff</td>
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Interdisciplinary Team + VAC

Dialysis Access Care Team + VAC
A multidisciplinary approach to vascular access

Multiple individuals are involved in the management of vascular access, including nephrologists, access surgeons, radiologists, dialysis nurses, and the patient. Achieving optimal vascular access outcomes requires cooperation on a common set of goals by all those individuals, close collaboration, and good communication [65].

A key feature of a successful multidisciplinary approach to vascular access is having a dedicated access coordinator who acts as a liaison between all the services involved, schedules all access procedures, and maintains a computerized database. Prospective tracking of vascular access procedures and their complications is critical to evaluating whether changes in practice patterns result in improved outcomes. The multidisciplinary approach also can increase fistula placement in pre-dialysis patients by streamlining the referral process.

Coordinated Vascular Access = Functional Vascular Access

Surgical

Dialysis Access Nurse

Interventionalist

Nephrologist