IAC Vein Center Accreditation: Importance and Update

Alan M Dietzek, MD, FACS, RPVI
Linda and Stephen R Cohen Chair in Vascular Surgery
Danbury Hospital – Western CT Health Network
Clinical Professor of Surgery
University of Vermont College of Medicine

42nd Annual Veith Symposium
November 17 - 21, 2015
New York, NY

Disclosures

• President of IAC Vein Center Accreditation

Slippery slope!

- Unethical physicians?
- No oversight
- No enforceable standards

*VAM 2014 - Crawford Forum on Critical Issues – R Zwolak

Multiple specialties involved all with different levels of training and experience:
- Vascular surgeons
- Cardiothoracic surgeons
- General surgeons
- Cardiologists
- Internists
- Family practitioners
- Dermatologists
- Gynecologists
- Plastic surgeons
- Urologists
- Others

Greater awareness vs Unnecessary procedures?

Asymptomatic lady with spider veins and small VVs

Indicated Procedures:
- RF ablation
- Left GSV
- EVLT
- Left SSV
- Right SSV
- Ambulatory phlebectomy
- Left VVs
- UGS
- Left leg
- Right leg
- Sclerotherapy
- Left leg
- Right leg

• Who is Performing Testing and Procedures?
  - Mercenary noninvasive vascular technologists
  - "Trash for cash" – inaccurate studies to generate procedures
  - Performing vein access and application of tumescence
  - RNs
  - Medical assistants

IAC Vein Center Accreditation
Importance – provide standards

I also do veins

IAC Vein Center Accreditation
Standards - Evaluating Scope of Practice

- Who is Performing Testing and Procedures?
  - Mercenary noninvasive vascular technologists
  - "Trash for cash" – inaccurate studies to generate procedures
  - Performing vein access and application of tumescence
  - RNs
  - Medical assistants

Annual Medicare Vein Stripping / Ablation

6.371% Increase in annual treatments

Greater awareness vs Unnecessary procedures?

Asymptomatic lady with spider veins and small VVs

Indicated Procedures:
- RF ablation
- Left GSV
- EVLT
- Left SSV
- Right SSV
- Ambulatory phlebectomy
- Left VVs
- UGS
- Left leg
- Right leg
- Sclerotherapy
- Left leg
- Right leg

• Who is Performing Testing and Procedures?
  - Mercenary noninvasive vascular technologists
  - "Trash for cash" – inaccurate studies to generate procedures
  - Performing vein access and application of tumescence
  - RNs
  - Medical assistants

Annual Medicare Vein Stripping / Ablation

6.371% Increase in annual treatments

IAC Vein Center Accreditation
Importance – provide standards

Multiple specialties involved all with different levels of training and experience:
- Vascular surgeons
- Cardiothoracic surgeons
- General surgeons
- Cardiologists
- Internists
- Family practitioners
- Dermatologists
- Gynecologists
- Plastic surgeons
- Urologists
- Others

No uniform oversight re procedure indications, procedure performance or reporting of outcomes
Benefits of Standardization

- Standards
  - Establish necessary training qualifications across specialties
  - Procedure indications and performance
  - Safety guidelines
  - Measurement and recording of outcomes

Result: Patient safety and care are improved

Purpose of IAC Vein Center Standards

- Establish minimal requirements for facilities to provide high-quality care (not centers of excellence)
- Develop guidelines as a foundation to achieve realistic quality goals

Sponsoring Organizations (11)
Board of Directors (16)

- Society for Vascular Surgery (SVS)
  - Marc Passman, MD
  - Deepak Nair, MD
- Society for Vascular Medicine (SVM)
  - Thom Rude, MD
- Society for Vascular Ultrasound (SVU)
  - Lisa L. Vacanti, RVT, RPhS
- Society of Interventional Radiology (SIR)
  - Mark J. Garcia, MD
  - Neil M. Khilnani, MD, D, RT
- Society for Vascular Nursing (SVN)
  - Melody Haffner, MSN, RN
- Society for Vascular Anesthesia (SVA)
  - Alan M. Dietzek, MD, RVT, RPhS
  - Ellen D. Dillavou, MD, RPVI, FA,CS

- American Academy of Dermatology (AAD)
  - Robert Weiss, MD, FAAD, FACPh
- American College of Radiology (ACR)
  - Stephen Dougherty, MD, FACS, RVT, FACPh
- American Society for Dermatologic Surgery (ASDS)
  - Mitchel P. Goldman, MD
- American Venous Forum (AVF)
  - Lowell Kabnick, MD, RPhS, FACS, FACPh
- American Venous Forum (AVF)
  - Mark Meissner, MD

IAC Vein Center Officers

- President
  - Alan M. Dietzek, MD
- President-elect
  - Ellen D. Dillavou, MD
- Officer at Large
  - Neil M. Khilnani, MD
- Secretary
  - Steve Zimmet, MD
- Immediate Past President
  - Lowell Kabnick, MD

- Director of Accreditation
  - Marge Hutchisson, RVT, RDGS, RPhS

IAC Vein Center Areas of Accreditation

- Superficial venous evaluation and management
- Deep venous (coming soon)
- Lymphatic (coming soon)

IAC Standards for Vein Center Accreditation: Superficial Venous Evaluation and Management
IAC Vein Center Accreditation

**Update**
- 100 applications received
- 76 accredited facilities
- 197 applications started but not submitted
- Facility location
  - 7% hospital
  - 93% private office/clinic

IAC Vein Center Facilities

**Medical Director Specialty**
- Cardiology: 6
- Family Practice: 3
- General Surgery: 7
- Internal Medicine: 1
- Interventional Radiology: 12
- Nephrology: 4
- Radiology: 1
- Vascular Medicine: 6
- Vascular Surgery: 51
- Other: 3

**Medical Staff Specialty**
- Cardiology: 7
- Family Practice: 1
- General Surgery: 1
- Interventional Radiology: 43
- Phlebology: 1
- Radiology: 2
- Vascular Medicine: 2
- Vascular Surgery: 74
- Other: 1

BCBS of MA Payment Policy

Endovascular ablation accreditation required for claims to pay

**Date Issued:** Aug 20, 2015

**Effective Date:** Jan 1, 2016

**To:** The physicians and facilities that offer endovascular ablation to our members

**From:** Lee Sheppard, M.D., Vice President, Medical Management and Policy
Ken Duxforth, M.D., Director, Health and Medical Management

In January, we notified you that we would require all providers who currently perform endovascular ablation, or who wish to perform it, to obtain International Accreditation Commission (IAC) Vein Center accreditation by September 1, 2015. For currently participating providers who are eligible to complete the accreditation process, we have extended the deadline to **January 1, 2016**.

All Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts physicians who are currently privileged to perform endovascular ablation must be listed as approved on the IAC-approved provider list for Vein Center Accreditation by January 1, 2016. As of February 1, 2016, we will remove privileging status for those providers who are not on that list, and no longer provide reimbursement for any endovascular ablation services they deliver. This requirement will ensure that our members receive treatment from providers and facilities that meet current...
Why Standardization is Needed with Endovenous Therapy

• Summary
  • Standardization will benefit all patients
  • It will either elevate or eliminate those physicians who should not be performing these procedures
  • If we don’t do it it will be done for us
  • Accreditation (Vein Center) is the best way to achieve Enforceable Standards
    • Must be linked to payment
    • Provides a unique opportunity for physicians to take control and work with government and insurance industry to achieve a greater good

Thank You for your attention