

CHRONIC KIDNEY DISEASE

Fistulas and Chronic Kidney Disease



KIDNEYS

866.414.6565

A fistula is also known as an AVF, meaning **a**rterio-**v**enous **f**istula. Fistulas help with hemodialysis when a person's kidneys completely fail. AVFs are considered the "gold standard" for vascular access. The AVF allows the blood to be withdrawn and returned more easily.

AVFs last longer and give an increased blood flow compared to other accesses. They perform the best and have fewer infections. This results in less time spent in the hospital. Vein access can be limited due to the previous blood work and possible scarring. IV catheters are not considered good for permanent access since they can clog, become infected or cause narrowed veins.

FOR MORE INFORMATION...

Please visit these websites:

www.ihf.org

www.esrdnetworks.org

www.niddk.nih.gov

www.kidney.org

REFERENCE:

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (www.cms.hhs.gov), "Fistula First Breakthrough" and "Questions and Answers, What is Fistula First?"



FOR MORE INFORMATION about CKD, call Care Management at 1.866.414.6565 (TTY: 1.800.473.0989).