Patient

"Ready, Set, Go" The Steps to Catheter Freedom
Week 4: New Graft Daily Check

Access Placed — Week 1 — Weeks 2-3 — Week 4 — Catheter Freedom

Check your graft every day.

If you do not know how, ask your Dialysis Care Team to teach you how to monitor your graft.

Look

Listen

Feel

Did you notice anything different when you checked your graft today?

No change.

Great! Keep checking each day. At your next treatment, tell your Dialysis Care Team that there was no change.

Yes, a change.

Call the contact given to you by your Dialysis Care Team. Share what you found. They will tell you what to do next.

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Look

The skin over the graft is all one color and looks like the skin around it.

There is redness, swelling or drainage. There are skin bulges with shiny, bleeding, or peeling skin.

Listen

When you place your graft next to your ear, you hear a sound. The sound is the same as the last time you checked it.

When you place the graft next to your ear, you hear no sound, Or the sound is different than the last time you checked it.

Feel

Thrill: A vibration or buzz that can be felt best where the graft is joined to the artery.

The thrill will grow fainter along the length of the graft.

You cannot feel the thrill or it is weaker over the area where the artery is joined to the graft. It is not as strong as it was the last time you checked it.

Pulse is a slight beating like a heartbeat. Fingers placed lightly on the graft move slightly.

The beat is stronger than a normal pulse. Fingers placed lightly on the graft rise and fall with each beat.

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Ask a member of your Dialysis Care Team to complete the form below. Did any of the results of your daily graft check fall under the "STOP" column? If so, call the contact listed below and share your results to find out what to do next.

Contact: _____

During regular facility hours: _____

After hours: _____

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