It only takes a minute to save your patient’s lifeline.

GO

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

Bruit - the hum or buzz should sound like a “whoosh,” or for some may sound like a drum beat. The sound should be the same along the access.

Thrill: a vibration or buzz in the full length of the access.

Pulse: slight beating like a heart-beat. Fingers placed lightly on the access should move slightly.

Look

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

Listen

There is no sound, decreased sound or a change in sound. Sound is different from what a normal Bruit should sound like.

Feel

Pulsatile: The beat is stronger than a normal pulse. Fingers placed lightly on the access will rise and fall with each beat.

Arm Elevation

Upper Arm AVF
The AVF outflow vein partially collapses when the arm is raised above the level of the heart. It may feel “flabby” when palpated.

Lower Arm AVF
The AVF outflow vein collapses when arm is raised above the level of the heart.

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