Check your fistula every day.

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

Look

Listen

Feel

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

No change.

Yes, a change.

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

Call the contact given to you by your Dialysis Care Team. Share what you found. They will tell you what to do next.
When you place your fistula next to your ear, you hear a sound. The sound is the same as the last time you checked it.

You hear no sound, or the sound you hear is different than the last time you checked it.

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

There is redness, swelling or drainage.

You can feel the thrill best over the scar. You feel it along the rest of the fistula, but it won’t feel as strong.

You cannot feel the thrill or it is weaker over the area where the artery is joined to the vein. It is not as strong as it was the last time you checked it.
Pulse is a slight beating like a heartbeat. When you place your fingers lightly on the fistula, they move slightly.

Feel

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

Ask a member of your Dialysis Care Team to complete the form below.

Did any of the results of your daily fistula 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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