

Patient

"Ready, Set, Go" The Steps to Catheter Freedom Week 1: 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.

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.

Continued..

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Look

The dressing is **clean and dry**.

The skin around the dressing **looks like it did before you had surgery**. The hand **looks the same** as it did before surgery.

When the dressing is no longer needed, the surgery site is **clean and dry**.

Once it has healed, the skin over the graft is **all one color** and looks like the skin around it.



The dressing is **wet or soiled**.
There is **drainage** on the dressing.

The arm is **bruised** and/or the hand is **not the normal color**.

There is **redness, swelling, or drainage**.

There is redness, swelling, or drainage.

Listen

When a dressing is no longer needed, place your graft next to your ear. You **hear the blood** going through it.



You hear no sound, or the sound is not as loud as the last time it was checked.

Feel

When a dressing is no longer needed, place your hand over the graft. You **can feel the graft** under the skin.



You cannot feel the graft. The hand of your affected arm feels numb and/or cold to the touch.

Continued..

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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 than it was the last time you checked it.

Pulse is a slight beating that feels like a heartbeat. When you place your fingers lightly on the graft, they move slightly.

The beat is stronger than a normal pulse. Fingers placed lightly on the graft 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 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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