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.
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**.

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.

**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**.

---

**Patient**

**“Ready, Set, Go” The Steps to Catheter Freedom**

**Week 4: New Graft Daily Check**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Look</th>
<th>Go</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The skin over the graft is <strong>all one color</strong> and looks like the skin around it.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>There is <strong>redness, swelling or drainage</strong>. There are <strong>skin bulges with shiny, bleeding, or peeling skin</strong>.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Listen</th>
<th>Go</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>When you place your graft next to your ear, you hear a <strong>sound</strong>. The <strong>sound is the same as the last time</strong> you checked it.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>When you place the graft next to your ear, you hear <strong>no sound</strong>, <strong>Or the sound is different than the last time</strong> you checked it.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Feel</th>
<th>Go</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Thrill</strong>: A vibration or buzz that can be felt best where the graft is joined to the artery.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The thrill will grow <strong>fainter</strong> along the length of the graft.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>You cannot feel the thrill <strong>or it is weaker</strong> over the area where the artery is joined to the graft. It is <strong>not as strong as it was the last time you checked it</strong>.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**.

---

Continued..
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: ________________________________

www.esrdncc.org
This material was prepared by the End Stage Renal Disease National Coordinating Center (ESRD NCC) contractor, under contract by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), an agency of the Department of Health and Human Services. The contents presented do not necessarily reflect CMS policy nor imply endorsement by the U.S. Government. Publication No. FL-ESRD NCC-7N52TA-08132020-07