

Access Placement: What to Consider



Understanding and feeling comfortable with your access is the first step in keeping your access safe. Use this resource to help you and your team discuss which access might best fit with your lifestyle choices. For all accesses, ensure you discuss infection risk and how to properly care for it.



Fistula or Graft

Situations to consider...

What are the surgery recovery limitations?	<i>I live alone. Will I need someone to help with everyday activities?</i>
Will I have weight limitations?	<i>I am a parent. Will I be able to carry my kids?</i>
Can I choose which arm and where it is placed?	<i>I sleep on my non-dominant arm. Will this be possible if they place my access in it?</i>
Can I continue to work, go to school, and participate in my regular activities?	<i>I enjoy moving my body and lifting weights. Will I be able to continue this activity?</i>



Peritoneal Dialysis (PD) Catheter

Situations to consider...

Will I be able to swim or bathe safely?	<i>Swimming is my therapy. Can I continue swimming at the public pool?</i>
What will my body look like?	<i>I am single and want to date. Will the catheter be ugly or impact intimacy?</i>
Can I continue to work, go to school, and participate in my regular activities?	<i>I work outdoors and sometimes camp for several days without a shower. How can I keep it clean?</i>



Chest Catheter

Situations to consider...

What is going to be the safest way for me to bathe?	<i>I do not have a tub in my house. Will I still be able to shower?</i>
Will I be able to hide it under clothing?	<i>I am not ready to tell people about my diagnosis. How may I conceal the catheter?</i>
Can I continue to work, go to school, and participate in my regular activities?	<i>I work on a boat and wear a life jacket. Will this affect my catheter?</i>

