

Helping You Stay Healthy!

New NKF Standards for Hemodialysis

Transonic Flow-QC®

Improved Quality of Care

Flow-QC® Tests

The National Kidney Foundation has established new guidelines with recommended standards for hemodialysis. Transonic Flow-QC® tests bring you these new standards at your dialysis center. The tests screen your vascular access so problems can be caught early. They also make sure that you are getting your prescribed hemodialysis delivery. Performed under your doctor's direction during your dialysis treatment, the tests are simple and painless. They take 10-15 minutes and produce immediate results.

Dialysis Prescription Confirmed

For the testing, a Flow-QC Monitor is wheeled to your side. The staff then clips a pair of sensors onto your dialysis lines. The monitor confirms your delivered dose of hemodialysis.

Recirculation Surveillance

Next, a small amount of saline is released into your dialysis lines. This tests if any blood from the dialyzer recirculates through the arterial line to be dialyzed again. Correcting this situation increases the efficiency of your dialysis treatment. For patients with grafts and

fistulas, recirculation measurements can also identify if the blood lines have been inadvertently reversed. Identifying and fixing this problem can improve your dialysis treatments and make you feel better. For those of you with catheters, recirculation measurements can help make sure you are getting the best dialysis treatment possible.

Vascular Access Flow Surveillance

The staff then switches the dialysis lines and releases another small amount of saline. This time the monitor tells how much blood is flowing through your vascular access (your vascular access flow). Your nephrologist uses this information to keep track of the health of your access and keep access surgery to an absolute minimum.

Kidney Foundation Guidelines recommend monitoring vascular access blood flow rates once a month with an ultrasound dilution technology such as Transonic Flow-QC. The guidelines also recommend that access flow less than 1000 ml/min that decreases by more than 25% over four months should be referred for evaluation.

Your Personal Record

You can keep track of your own vascular access flow and recirculation measurements on the chart provided. Alert your dialysis provider if you detect a significant drop in your vascular access flow rate or increase in recirculation measurements.

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"Most studies have been performed with ultrasound dilution leading to its recommendation as the best validated technique for measuring access flow."

Schwab, SJ, MD, Updates & Changes in the NKF DOQI Guidelines for Hemodialysis Vascular Access," NKF, 5/99

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"We now can spot problems before the access clots giving us more time to examine the patient, investigate the access, and decide on a treatment plan."

Dr. T Kapoian, Dialysis Clinic Inc., Rbt. Wood Johnson
Dialysis Ctr.

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"Adequate blood flow in peripheral hemodialysis fistulae and grafts is vital to the success of hemodialysis and to survival of the patient. Reduction in flow leads to failure of the access device itself. Access flow can therefore be considered a fundamental property of the access that should be monitored."

Depner, TA et al, ASAIO J 41:745-749, 1995