



Newsletter

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According to the latest Dashboard (November 2004 data), ESRD Network 18 has an AVF rate of 41.3% which exceeds the initial AVF goal of 39.7%. The Medical Review Board will consider establishing a new internal AVF rate goal at the February 2005 meeting.

“CHAMPIONS CORNER”

Dr. Sidney Glazer, our well-known champion, would like to nominate the entire team at Kaiser Permanente Orange County. Vascular surgeons: Drs. Kyu Oh, Michael Farooq, and Terrance Mayers. Interventional radiologists: Drs. Mafuz Ahmed and P.J. Mowji. Nephrologists: Drs. Tina Cushing, Sinjoo Kim, Hassan Movahedi, and Shailesh Patel. Renal case manager: Maria O’Connell. FMC facility managers: Zahra Majidi and Lilli Ann Macaraeg. According to Dr. Glazer, they all work together as a team to achieve a high prevalence of AV Fistulas.

Andy Mallari, CHT, FMC West Los Angeles is the best “sticker” and AVF champion at his facility. He was also named an “Employee of the Month”. Ron Taylor, CHT, vascular access coordinator at GHC Escondido has also helped patients by educating them regarding AV Fistulas and encouraging new patients to have fistulas created.

SUCCESS STORIES: “WHAT WORKS”

At this point, most successful facilities have full cooperation from their surgeons. Some of the facilities have created a “mini-community of practice” and have regular meetings with their surgeons. According to the facilities, more and more new ESRD patients start dialysis with a catheter and AV Fistula in place. Some facilities have noticed a few more conversions of AV Grafts to AV Fistulas. But the most common observation is that the nephrologists are more involved in the referral process and Vascular Access care; perhaps because they are in the facility more often and see their patients on a regular basis.

One Medical Director has been generating “End of the Year” reports representing number of patients by vascular access type and nephrologists and surgeons, and then sending them to those practitioners in blinded format, identifying them only as A, B, C, etc. According to this Medical Director, he has been sending these reports for almost 6 years and he started seeing the difference in the referral process in the last 2-3 years.

At one of the LDO regional meetings, a facility administrator raised an issue that her Medical Director was not really cooperative, so the Network staff made a visit to the facility to discuss these issues with the Medical Director. When this physician saw the comparative Vascular Access Report and realized that his facility has one of the lowest AV Fistula rates in the company, he became more receptive to participating. Our latest statistical analysis showed that this facility is now making significant progress toward the 40% goal.

QI staff started developing cannulation training, leveraging Network and outside-of-the-Network resources and partnering with one of the LDOs. We would like to express our gratitude to Lynda Ball, RN, BSN, CNN, QI Director at ESRD Network 16 in Seattle who designed this program and presented it to her Southern California colleagues. The first Cannulation Camp took place on January 12th and 13th at the Gambro Healthcare Corporate office in Irvine. All of the LDOs were represented as well as small chains and some independent facilities. 79 nurses, technicians, and educators were able to attend. This was a train-the-trainer program and all the attendees will take the knowledge back to their facilities and train their colleagues. Lana Kacherova will follow up with everyone in the coming weeks to ensure the cannulation training initiative’s long-term success.

We welcome your input and feedback – it helps all facilities in Network 18!