It only takes a minute to check your patient’s catheter. Check before you connect.

**A Bridge to Your Lifeline**

### Look

- If you think there is a problem with the catheter tubing.
- If the catheter hubs are exposed or dirty.
- If the catheter cuff is coming out of the skin.
- If the exit site is red, draining or bleeding.
- If the cuff is exposed.
- If a stitch is still in place: Check to see if it can be removed
- The skin over the tunnel is red.

Look at the **CATHETER** to make sure:

- There are no cracks in the catheter tubing.
- The caps are on the ends of the catheter tubes.
- The catheter cuff is not coming out of the skin.

Look at the **EXIT SITE** to make sure there is no:

- Redness
- Drainage
- Bleeding
- Exposure of catheter cuff

Check the skin over tunnel for redness.

### Listen

- If the patient reports or has a fever.
- If the patient reports something that is different with their catheter.
- If the patient reports a problem with their catheter.

Listen to the patient and be sure to ask:

- If they think they might have a fever.
- If they have noticed anything different with their catheter since the last dialysis treatment.

### Feel

- Pain and/or drainage from the exit site when you press lightly on the area over the tunnel.
- If the area over the tunnel is warmer than the area around it.

If there is:

Press lightly on the area over the tunnel away from the exit site.

There should be no:

- Pain
- Drainage coming from the exit site

The area over the tunnel should not feel warmer than the area around it.
Check before you connect.

Look

CATHETER:
- No cracks in the tubing.
- The caps are on the ends of the tubes.
- The cuff is not coming out of the skin.

EXIT SITE:
- No redness, drainage, bleeding, or exposure of the cuff.

CATHETER:
- Any problem with tubing.
- Hubs are exposed or dirty.
- Cuff is coming out of the skin.

EXIT SITE:
- Red, draining, or bleeding.
- Cuff is exposed.
- A stitch is still in place. (Check if it can be removed.)
- The skin over the tunnel is red.

Good to go!

Report and document findings per facility Policy and Procedure.

A Bridge to Your Lifeline

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arteriovenous FISTULA FIRST
AVF — The first choice for hemodialysis
Check before you connect.

Listen

Listen to your patient and be sure to ask questions.

- Does the patient think they may have a fever?
- Has the patient noticed anything different with their catheter since the last dialysis treatment?
  - *If the answer is “No...”*

GO

Good to go!

STOP

Report and document findings per facility Policy and Procedure.

A Bridge to Your Lifeline

- Patient reports or has a fever.
- Patient reports something is different with their catheter.
- Patient reports a problem with their catheter.

ESRD NCC

NATIONAL COORDINATING CENTER

arteriovenous
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Check before you connect.

Feel

Press lightly on the area over the tunnel, away from the exit site.

- No pain upon pressing.
- No drainage coming from the exit site.
- The area over the tunnel feels no warmer than the surrounding area.

• Pain and/or drainage from the exit site when you press lightly on the area over the tunnel.
• The area over the tunnel is warmer than the surrounding area.

GO

A Bridge to Your Lifeline

STOP

Report and document findings per facility Policy and Procedure.

Good to go!
It only takes a minute to check your patient’s catheter.

Dialysis Care Team:
- Perform catheter check at each treatment or when patient reports a change.
- Reinforce importance of daily catheter check to patient.
- Listen to the patient.

Look

Listen

Feel

Were there any abnormal findings during the catheter check?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Yes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Document that there were no abnormal findings.</td>
<td>Report and document findings per facility policy and procedure.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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