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## Overview

This standard covers obtaining and maintaining vascular access for haemodialysis therapy where this is accepted as appropriate according to the individual's condition and your organisational policies, procedures and guidelines.

Users of this standard will need to communicate effectively to meet individuals' needs and wishes and work in line with health and safety legislation, policy and practices.

## Performance criteria

### *You must be able to:*

- P1. access and accurately interpret all relevant work instructions and information
- P2. identify and agree the roles and responsibilities of yourself and others in obtaining and maintaining vascular access for, and cease access following, haemodialysis therapy
- P3. provide support to the individual, ensuring that you respect their rights and wishes relating to their privacy, beliefs and dignity
- P4. establish consent and access information on obtaining and maintaining vascular access for, and cease access following, haemodialysis therapy
- P5. confirm the individual's identity and confirm the planned action
- P6. identify potential sites and types of vascular access correctly with the appropriate member of the care team, and assess using the relevant criteria and protocols which site is the most appropriate to use
- P7. recognise any problems with the vascular access and report them immediately to the appropriate member of the care team
- P8. prepare and clean the vascular access site effectively according to the plan of care and agreed protocols
- P9. select the appropriate size and type of cannula
- P10. insert and secure the cannula ensuring minimising any discomfort to the individual
  
- P11. ensure the cannulation method used aims to maximise the continuing viability of the vascular access.
- P12. confirm effective blood flow using relevant criteria or protocols.
- P13. if blood flow is not effective, take appropriate action before proceeding.
- P14. connect the individual to the extracorporeal circuit.
- P15. administer the prescribed anti-coagulant if this is required according to the prescription and protocols
- P16. connect the cannula(e) or catheter and dialysis line according to protocol.
- P17. ensure timing is appropriate and use a method that minimises infection risk
- P18. recognise adverse reactions to, and problems with, the procedure promptly and take the appropriate action to resolve them according to the individual, the setting and the problem and/or refer them to an appropriate member of the care team according to protocols
- P19. encourage individuals to recognise and report any unusual or unexpected change

or feeling during therapy

P20. monitor the patency of the vascular access effectively during haemodialysis therapy and make appropriate adjustments to maintain the effective flow of blood

P21. recognise any problems with blood flow promptly and take action appropriate to the individual and the problem immediately

P22. confirm the administration of products to avoid blood coagulation has occurred as specified in the plan of care

P23. disconnect the cannula(e) or catheter and dialysis line(s) at the appropriate time and remove it in a manner which aims to cause minimum discomfort to the individual and maximise the continuing viability of the vascular access

P24. apply the appropriate dressing to the vascular access site according to the type of access and the plan of care

P25. complete all relevant documentation required for obtaining and maintaining vascular access for, and cease access following, haemodialysis therapy

## Knowledge and understanding

### *You need to know and understand:*

- K1. the current legislation, guidelines, policies, procedures and protocols which are relevant to your work practice and to which you must adhere
- K2. the scope and limitations of your own competence, responsibilities and accountability as it applies to your job role
- K3. how to access and interpret all relevant work instructions and information
- K4. specific procedures for reporting issues which are beyond your competence, responsibilities and accountability
- K5. the principles, practice and procedures associated with informed consent
- K6. the importance of applying standard infection control precautions to the obtaining and maintaining of vascular access for, and ceasing access following, haemodialysis therapy and the potential consequences of poor practice
- K7. the structure of blood vessels
- K8. blood clotting processes and factors influencing blood clotting
- K9. how the individual's dignity might be compromised during access procedures and what measures to take to avoid this
- K10. how to provide support to individuals which is appropriate to their needs and concerns
- K11. the different types of vascular access and why different types of access are used for different individuals
- K12. what factors to consider when assessing and choosing the best site for cannulation, and why it is important to choose an appropriate site
- K13. the type and function of materials and equipment used to obtain, maintain and cease vascular access for haemodialysis
- K14. the particular requirements when dealing with new fistulas
- K15. the importance of having close and effective observation of the individual, the vascular access site and the dialysis machine monitors when connecting the needle and the dialysis line
- K16. why it is important to maintain the safety, placement, and patency of access during dialysis
- K17. what to look for when assessing venous catheters
- K18. the complications and problems may occur during cannulation and connection procedures, how you would recognise them and what action you would take
- K19. the types of problems that might occur in relation to blood flow and vascular

access, how you would recognise them and what action you would take

K20. how to prepare different types of vascular access sites

K21. how to insert and secure cannulae for dialysis

K22. how to monitor blood flow, what to look for in terms of the individual's condition, the dialysis machine monitors and the vascular access site

K23. how to disconnect lines and remove cannulae

K24. when and how to treat and dress vascular access sites

K25. the information that needs to be recorded and/or reported regarding:

- a. obtaining and maintaining vascular access for haemodialysis therapy
- b. on cessation of vascular access

K26. how to complete and safely store all relevant documentation in accordance with organisational requirements

SFHCHS30

Obtain and maintain vascular access for, and cease access following, haemodialysis therapy



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**Suite** Clinical Health Skills

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