

Dialysis Professional

“Ready, Set, Go” The Steps to Catheter Freedom Week 1: Graft Healing & Readiness Check



- Perform graft healing check at each treatment or when patient reports a change.
 - Reinforce to patient the importance of daily graft checks.
 - Listen to the patient.

Look



Listen



Feel



Were there any abnormal findings during the graft healing and readiness check?

No

Document that there were no abnormal findings.

Yes

Document findings and refer to expert clinician.

Continued..

Dialysis Professional

“Ready, Set, Go” The Steps to Catheter Freedom Week 1: Graft Healing & Readiness Check



Look

The dressing is **clean and dry**.

The skin around the dressing **looks like it did before surgery**.

The hand looks the same as it did before surgery.

When the dressing is no longer needed, the surgery site is **clean and dry**.

Once healed, the skin over the graft is all one **color** and **looks like the skin around it**.



The dressing is **wet** or **soiled**.
There is **drainage** on the dressing.

The arm is **bruised** and/or the hand is **not the normal color**.

There is **redness, swelling, or drainage**.

Listen

When you listen with a stethoscope, You **hear the bruit along the length of the graft**.

The bruit **sounds like a “whoosh,”** or for some, like a **drum beat**.



There is **no sound**, or the bruit is **not as loud** as the last time it was checked.

Sound is **different** than the sound of a normal bruit.

Feel

You **can feel** the graft.



Thrill is a vibration or buzz that can be felt most prominently where the graft joins the artery and where it joins the vein.

You **can feel** the thrill.

You **cannot** feel the graft and/or the hand of the affected arm is **cold to the touch**.

You **cannot** feel the thrill or it is **weaker** than the last time it was checked.

Continued..

Dialysis Professional

“Ready, Set, Go” The Steps to Catheter Freedom Week 1: Graft Healing & Readiness Check



Feel

Pulse: A slight beating that feels like a heartbeat. Fingers placed lightly on the graft move slightly.



Pulsatile: The beat is **stronger** than a normal pulse. Fingers placed lightly on the graft **rise and fall with each beat.**



www.esrdncc.org

This publication was developed under Contract Number HHS-500-2013-NW002C, titled “End Stage Renal Disease National Coordinating Center (ESRD NCC),” sponsored by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), Department of Health and Human Services. The contents presented do not necessarily reflect CMS policy.



Dialysis Professional

“Ready, Set, Go” The Steps to Catheter Freedom Weeks 2-3: Graft Healing & Readiness Check



- Perform graft healing check at each treatment or when patient reports a change.
 - Reinforce to patient the importance of daily graft checks.
 - Listen to the patient.

Look



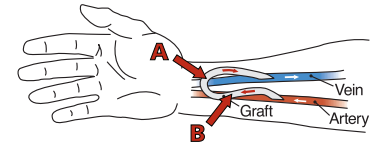
Listen



Feel



Augmentation Test



Perform once.
If normal, no need to repeat.

Were there any abnormal findings during the graft healing and readiness check?

No

Document that there were no abnormal findings.

Yes

Document findings and refer to expert clinician.

Continued..

Dialysis Professional

“Ready, Set, Go” The Steps to Catheter Freedom Weeks 2-3: Graft Healing & Readiness Check



Look

You **can see** the graft and tell if it is a straight or looped graft.

The cannulation segment is long enough to use two needles placed at least two inches apart.

The skin over the graft is **all one color** and **looks like the skin around it**.



You **cannot** see the graft.

The arm is **bruised** and/or the hand is **not the normal color**.

There is **redness, swelling** or **drainage**.

Listen

When you listen to the graft with a stethoscope, You hear the bruit along the length of the graft.

The bruit **sounds like a “whoosh,”** or for some, like a **drum beat**.



There is **no sound**, or the bruit is **not as loud** as the last time it was checked.

Sound is **different** than what a normal bruit should sound like.

Feel

You **can feel** the graft.



You **cannot** feel the graft.

Thrill is a vibration or buzz that can be felt most prominently where the graft joins the artery and where it joins the vein.

You **can feel the thrill**.

Pulse: A slight beating that feels like a heartbeat. When you place your fingers lightly on the graft, they move slightly.

You **cannot** feel the thrill or it is **weaker** than the last time it was checked.

Pulsatile: The beat is **stronger** than a normal pulse. Fingers placed lightly on the graft **rise and fall with each beat**.

Continued..

Dialysis Professional

“Ready, Set, Go” The Steps to Catheter Freedom Weeks 2-3: Graft Healing & Readiness Check

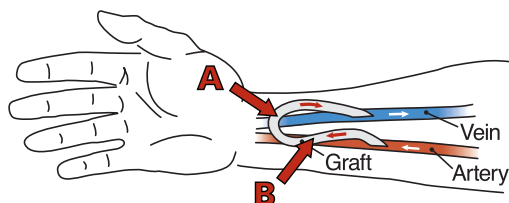


Augmentation Test

If normal at week 2 or 3, it does not need to be repeated.

Curved Graft

The arrows show you where to place your fingers. Place your fingers at point A on the graft, feel the pulse, and press down until no blood is flowing through the graft. Keep your finger on the graft, place your other finger at point B to feel the pulse near the connection of the graft to the artery.



Straight Graft

Place your fingers on the out-going venous part of the graft, feel the pulse, and press down until no blood is flowing through the graft. Keep your finger on the venous part of the graft and feel for the pulse near the arterial connection to the graft.

Pulse is “**strong and bounding**” and may cause your finger to **rise and fall** with each beat.

Pulse **does not** become more forceful or “strong and bounding.”



www.esrdncc.org

This publication was developed under Contract Number HHSM-500-2013-NW002C, titled “End Stage Renal Disease National Coordinating Center (ESRD NCC),” sponsored by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), Department of Health and Human Services. The contents presented do not necessarily reflect CMS policy.



Dialysis Professional

“Ready, Set, Go” The Steps to Catheter Freedom Week 4: Graft Healing & Readiness Check



- Perform graft healing check at each treatment or when patient reports a change.
 - Reinforce to patient the importance of daily graft checks.
 - Listen to the patient.

Look



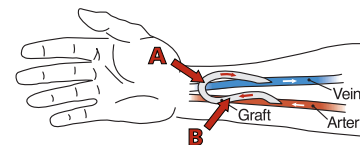
Listen



Feel



Augmentation Test



(Optional)

Were there any abnormal findings during the graft healing and readiness check?

No

Document that there were no abnormal findings.

Yes

Document findings and refer to expert clinician.

Continued..

Dialysis Professional

“Ready, Set, Go” The Steps to Catheter Freedom Week 4: Graft Healing & Readiness Check



Look

The hand of the affected arm **looks the same** as it did before surgery.

The skin over the graft is **all one color** and **looks like the skin around it**.



The arm is **bruised** and/or the hand is **not the normal color**.

There is **redness, swelling, or drainage**.

Listen

When you listen to the graft with a stethoscope, you hear the bruit along the length of the graft.

The bruit **sounds like a “whoosh,”** or for some, like a **drum beat**.



There is **no sound**, or the bruit is **not as loud** as the last time it was checked.

Sound is **different** than what a normal bruit should sound like.

Feel



Thrill is a vibration or buzz that can be felt most prominently where the graft joins the artery and where it joins the vein.

You can feel the thrill.

Pulse: A slight beating that feels like a heartbeat. When you place your fingers lightly on the graft, they move slightly.

You **cannot** feel the thrill or it is **weaker** than the last time it was checked.

Pulsatile: The beat is **stronger** than a normal pulse. Fingers placed lightly on the graft **rise and fall with each beat**.

Continued..

Dialysis Professional

“Ready, Set, Go” The Steps to Catheter Freedom Week 4: Graft Healing & Readiness Check

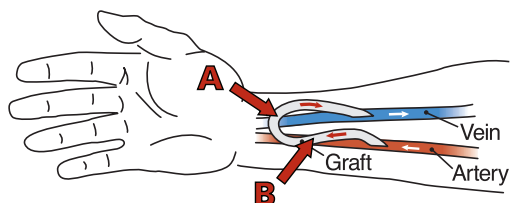


Augmentation Test

Optional

Curved Graft

The arrows show you where to place your fingers. Place your fingers at point A on the graft, feel the pulse, and press down until no blood is flowing through the graft. Keep your finger on the graft, place your other finger at point B to feel the pulse near the connection of the graft to the artery.



Straight Graft

Place your fingers on the out-going venous part of the graft, feel the pulse, and press down until no blood is flowing through the graft. Keep your finger on the venous part of the graft and feel for the pulse near the arterial connection to the graft.

Pulse is “strong and bounding” and may cause your finger to rise and fall with each beat.

Pulse **does not** become more forceful or “strong and bounding.”



www.esrdncc.org

This publication was developed under Contract Number HHSM-500-2013-NW002C, titled “End Stage Renal Disease National Coordinating Center (ESRD NCC),” sponsored by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), Department of Health and Human Services. The contents presented do not necessarily reflect CMS policy.



Patient

"Ready, Set, Go" The Steps to Catheter Freedom Week 1: New Graft Daily Check

Access
Placed



Week 1



Weeks 2-3



Week 4

Catheter
Freedom

Check your graft every day.

If you do not know how, ask your Dialysis Care Team to teach you how to monitor your graft.

Look



Listen



Feel



Did you notice anything different when you checked your graft today?

No change.

Yes, a change.

Great! Keep checking each day. At your next treatment, tell your Dialysis Care Team that there was no change.

Call the contact given to you by your Dialysis Care Team. Share what you found. They will tell you what to do next.

Continued..

Patient

"Ready, Set, Go" The Steps to Catheter Freedom Week 1: New Graft Daily Check



Look

The dressing is **clean and dry**.

The skin around the dressing **looks like it did before you had surgery**. The hand **looks the same** as it did before surgery.

When the dressing is no longer needed, the surgery site is **clean and dry**.

Once it has healed, the skin over the graft is **all one color** and looks like the skin around it.



The dressing is **wet or soiled**.
There is **drainage** on the dressing.

The arm is **bruised** and/or the hand is **not the normal color**.

There is **redness, swelling, or drainage**.

There is redness, swelling, or drainage.

Listen

When a dressing is no longer needed, place your graft next to your ear. You **hear the blood** going through it.



You hear no sound, or the sound is not as loud as the last time it was checked.

Feel

When a dressing is no longer needed, place your hand over the graft. You **can feel the graft** under the skin.



You cannot feel the graft. The hand of your affected arm feels numb and/or cold to the touch.

Continued..

Patient

"Ready, Set, Go" The Steps to Catheter Freedom Week 1: New Graft Daily Check



Feel



Thrill: A vibration or buzz that can be felt best where the graft is joined to the artery.

The thrill will grow fainter along the length of the graft.

You cannot feel the thrill or it is weaker than it was the last time you checked it.

Pulse is a slight beating that feels like a heartbeat. When you place your fingers lightly on the graft, they move slightly.

The beat is stronger than a normal pulse. Fingers placed lightly on the graft rise and fall with each beat.

**Ask a member of your Dialysis Care Team to complete the form below.
Did any of the results of your daily graft check fall under the "STOP" column?
If so, call the contact listed below and share your results to find out what to do next.**

Contact: _____
During regular facility hours: _____
After hours: _____



www.esrdncc.org

This publication was developed under Contract Number HHS-500-2013-NW002C, titled "End Stage Renal Disease National Coordinating Center (ESRD NCC)," sponsored by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), Department of Health and Human Services. The contents presented do not necessarily reflect CMS policy.



Patient

"Ready, Set, Go" The Steps to Catheter Freedom Weeks 2-3: New Graft Daily Check

Access
Placed



Week 1



Weeks 2-3



Catheter
Freedom

Week 4

Check your graft every day.

If you do not know how, ask your Dialysis Care Team to teach you how to monitor your graft.

Look



Listen



Feel



Did you notice anything different when you checked your graft today?

No change.

Yes, a change.

Great! Keep checking each day. At your next treatment, tell your Dialysis Care Team that there was no change.

Call the contact given to you by your Dialysis Care Team. Share what you found. They will tell you what to do next.

Continued..

Patient

"Ready, Set, Go" The Steps to Catheter Freedom Weeks 2-3: New Graft Daily Check



Look

The graft **looks like a bulge** under the skin. It may be straight or curved.

The hand **looks the same** as it did before surgery.

The skin over the graft is **all one color** and looks like the skin around it.



You **cannot see the bulge** under the skin.

The arm is **bruised and/or the hand is not the normal color**.

There is **redness, swelling** or **drainage**.

Listen

When you place the graft next to your ear **you hear a sound**. It may sound like a "whoosh," or for some, like a drum beat.



When you place the graft next to your ear you hear **no sound**, Or the **sounds is fainter** or **different** than the last time you checked it.

Feel

You **can feel the graft**.



You **cannot feel the graft**.

Continued..

Patient

"Ready, Set, Go" The Steps to Catheter Freedom Weeks 2-3: New Graft Daily Check



Feel



Thrill: A vibration or buzz that can be felt best where the graft is joined to the artery.

The thrill will grow fainter along the length of the graft.

Pulse is a slight beating that feels like a heartbeat. When you place your fingers lightly on the graft, they move slightly.

You **cannot feel the thrill** or it is **weaker than it was** the last time you checked it.

The beat is **stronger than a normal pulse**. Fingers placed lightly on the access **rise and fall with each beat**.

**Ask a member of your Dialysis Care Team to complete the form below.
Did any of the results of your daily graft check fall under the "STOP" column?
If so, call the contact listed below and share your results to find out what to do next.**

Contact: _____
During regular facility hours: _____
After hours: _____



www.esrdncc.org

This publication was developed under Contract Number HHS-500-2013-NW002C, titled "End Stage Renal Disease National Coordinating Center (ESRD NCC)," sponsored by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), Department of Health and Human Services. The contents presented do not necessarily reflect CMS policy.



Patient

"Ready, Set, Go" The Steps to Catheter Freedom Week 4: New Graft Daily Check

Access
Placed



Week 1



Weeks 2-3



Week 4

Catheter
Freedom

Check your graft every day.

If you do not know how, ask your Dialysis Care Team to teach you how to monitor your graft.

Look



Listen



Feel



Did you notice anything different when you checked your graft today?

No change.

Yes, a change.

Great! Keep checking each day. At your next treatment, tell your Dialysis Care Team that there was no change.

Call the contact given to you by your Dialysis Care Team. Share what you found. They will tell you what to do next.

Continued..

Patient

"Ready, Set, Go" The Steps to Catheter Freedom Week 4: New Graft Daily Check



Look

The skin over the graft is **all one color** and looks like the skin around it.



There is **redness, swelling or drainage**. There are **skin bulges with shiny, bleeding, or peeling skin**.

Listen

When you place your graft next to your ear, you hear a sound. The **sound is the same as the last time** you checked it.



When you place the graft next to your ear, you hear **no sound, Or the sound is different** than the last time you checked it.

Feel



Thrill: A vibration or buzz that can be felt best where the graft is joined to the artery.

The thrill will grow fainter along the length of the graft.

Pulse is a slight beating like a heartbeat. Fingers placed lightly on the graft move slightly.

You cannot feel the thrill or it is weaker over the area where the artery is joined to the graft. It is **not as strong as it was the last time you checked it**.

The beat **is stronger than a normal pulse**. Fingers placed lightly on the graft **rise and fall with each beat**.

Continued..

Patient

"Ready, Set, Go" The Steps to Catheter Freedom Week 4: New Graft Daily Check



*Ask a member of your Dialysis Care Team to complete the form below.
Did any of the results of your daily graft check fall under the "STOP" column?
If so, call the contact listed below and share your
results to find out what to do next.*

Contact: _____
During regular facility hours: _____
After hours: _____



www.esrdncc.org

This publication was developed under Contract Number HHS-500-2013-NW002C, titled "End Stage Renal Disease National Coordinating Center (ESRD NCC)," sponsored by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), Department of Health and Human Services. The contents presented do not necessarily reflect CMS policy.

