

Patient Information

Renal services

Nephroflow

Introduction

D. med Nephroflow is designed to measure the access flow and the recirculation (blood flow) through your fistula or graft.

Access flow monitoring is an important part of your vascular access care. It can be accomplished by direct observation and inspection of access and by access flow monitoring via a Nephroflow machine. As the measurement is very precise and sensitive please make sure not to move, hold the lines or manipulate the sensors during the measurement period. Your nurse will inform you of the outcome of the procedure and if further action is required.

Surveillance is essential to access care; you will be monitored approximately every three months. The measurement is based on two ultrasonic sensor heads, which are clipped on the blood lines of the dialysis machine. The device measures the relative change in speed of sound of the liquid in the bloodlines. This procedure is only intended for patients on dialysis with fistula or graft.

Access monitoring is important in order to:

- Preserve and prolong the life of your access.
- A fistula or a graft is your lifeline for dialysis care.
- Without a working access, you cannot receive treatment.



Patient Information

How can monitoring benefit you?

- Detects recirculation.
- Monitors actual delivered blood flow.
- Helps detect stenosis (narrowing of the vein) of access.
- Reduces unavoidable hospital stay.
- Reduces unnecessary invasive procedures.

Three steps to access care:

- Step 1: Surgical Creation.
- Step 2: Access Surveillance.
- Step 3: Surgical and Radiological Interventions and/or Revision.

Further Information

If you would like any further information or have any questions, please check with your access link nurses in your Unit.

The Trust has access to interpreting and translation services. If you need this information in large print, Braille, audiocassette, video or translated into another language, please contact the Renal Access Team on Ext 28307 and we will do our best to meet your needs.

The Trust operates a smoke free policy.

To give feedback on this leaflet please email feedback@uhcw.nhs.uk

Document History

Department:	Renal Access
Contact:	28307
Updated:	February 2021
Review:	February 2023
Version:	1.1
Reference:	HIC/LFT/2326/18