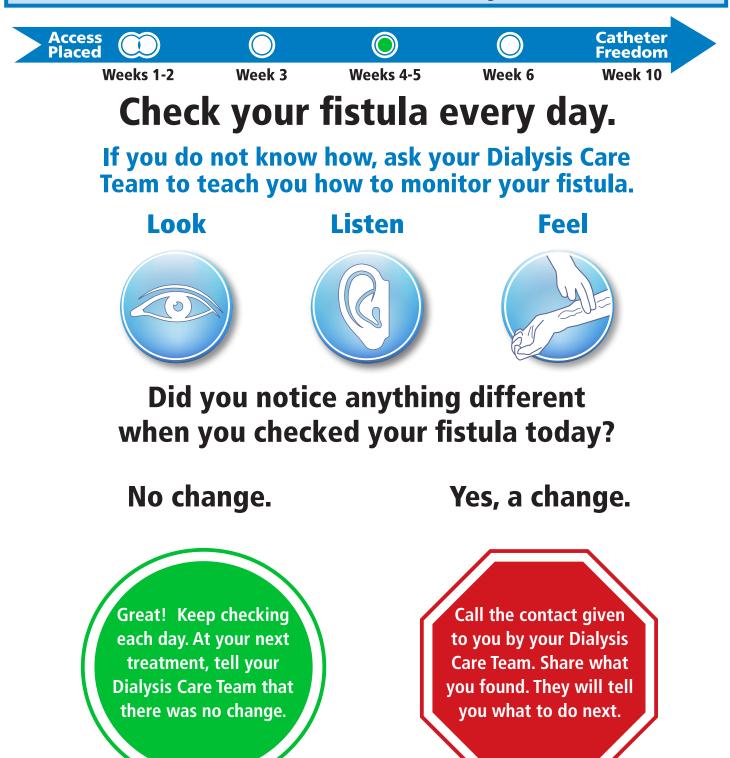
Patient

"Ready, Set, Go" The Steps to Catheter Freedom Weeks 4-5: New Fistula Daily Check



Continued..

Patient

"Ready, Set, Go" The Steps to Catheter Freedom Weeks 4-5: New Fistula Daily Check



You feel the fistula under the skin. At first, the fistula seems small but it should grow over time.



You cannot feel the fistula. The hand of the affected arm feels numb or cold to the touch.

Continued.

Patient

"Ready, Set, Go" The Steps to Catheter Freedom Weeks 4-5: New Fistula Daily Check



Thrill: A vibration or buzz that can be felt best over the scar. This is where the artery and vein are joined together.

The thrill becomes stronger over time, as the fistula grows.

You feel the thrill along the rest of the fistula, but it doesn't feel as strong as it does over the scar.

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

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

The beat is stronger than a normal pulse. Fingers placed lightly on the fistula 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 fistula 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:		
ESRD NCC NATIONAL COORDINATING CENTER	www.esrdincc.org This material was prepared by the End Stage Renal Disease National Coordinating Center (ESRD NCC) contractor, under contract by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), an agency of the Department of Health and Human Services. The contents presented do not necessarily reflect CMS policy nor imply endorsement by the U.S. Government. Publication No. FL-ESRD NCC-7N52TA-08132020-03	arteriovenous FISTULAFIRST AVF – The first choice for hemodialysis