Ontario Renal Network Vascular Access Education Program
Course Syllabus

Background
The Ontario Renal Network (ORN) has made it a priority to ensure that patients with Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) receive safe and high quality dialysis access. One of the ways in which ORN is committed to meeting these objective is by developing the Vascular Access Education Program (VAEP) for nurses and others who cannulate to have access to high-quality education that is both comprehensive and consistent in delivering safe care.

In 2015, the ORN acquired and updated Amgen Inc.’s Vascular Access Nursing Education Program to produce an interactive education program. This program has been designed to address this need for standardized provider education.

The Vascular Access Education Program was created by the Ontario Renal Network, a work unit within Cancer Care Ontario, in collaboration with the ORN Cannulation Working Group to better inform providers about the assessment and care of hemodialysis vascular accesses. This Resource may not include all relevant information and is not an exhaustive resource. Always consult your unit specific policies and procedures to ensure alignment in care provision.

Course Objectives
Upon completion of this course, you should be able to:
- Explain the guidelines for vascular access and describe the rationale for these guidelines
- Describe the types of arteriovenous fistulae, and identify access sites, complications and management of arteriovenous fistulae
- Describe the types and use of arteriovenous grafts, and identify surgical procedures, complications and management of arteriovenous grafts
- Describe the rope ladder and buttonhole cannulation techniques including pre-cannulation assessment for both techniques
- Describe the types of central hemodialysis catheters and identify indications, placement sites, complications and management of central hemodialysis catheters

Course Modules
The following modules are included in the Vascular Access Education Program:
- Module 1: Vascular Access Overview
- Module 2: Arteriovenous Fistulae
- Module 3: Arteriovenous Grafts
- Module 4: Cannulation
- Module 5: Hemodialysis Catheters
- Module 6: Assessment Quiz

Completion Requirements
This training is to be completed by all new cannulating dialysis staff. Individuals that have already completed this training (such as using their on-site Learning Management System), must complete this course every two years to maintain competency.

Technical and Content Support
For technical support, please contact de Souza Institute at support@desouzainstitute.com
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