

Dialysis Access Management

Nephrology Physicians offers the following treatment options to ensure that your dialysis access will function safely and smoothly:

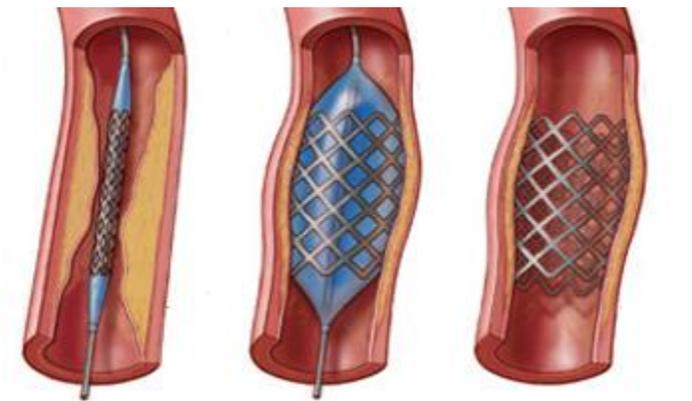
- Vein Mapping

Vein mapping is performed to determine the diameter, length, and suitability of the superficial veins for placement of a dialysis access. At Nephrology Physicians, we perform this procedure with venography using contrast dye.



- Angioplasty, Stenting, and Fistula Salvage

Many poorly functioning accesses suffer from stenosis, which is a blockage or narrowing in the access. To open up stenosis, we may intervene with angioplasty and/or stent placement to improve blood flow. In angioplasty, a small balloon, mounted on a catheter, is inflated within the blood vessel, expanding the narrowed access. If necessary, we may also insert a metal stent to maintain even blood flow throughout the access. For arteriovenous (AV) fistulas that have not "matured" for optimal dialysis treatment, we can provide a series of angioplasty and/or stenting treatments to expand the access. This set of access interventions over the course of a few weeks is known as Fistula Salvage.



- **Thrombectomy & Thrombolysis**

For clotted accesses, we offer thrombectomy to remove blood clots or thrombi from the access. This can be done in a variety of ways, including medications to dissolve the clot, and angioplasty to fix the cause of the clotting. Mechanical thrombectomy devices can also be used to remove the clot from the access.



- **Dialysis Catheter Placement and Removal**

We offer dialysis catheter placements so patients can receive dialysis treatment right away. There are several types of catheters, but they are typically flexible hollow tubes placed in a vein in the chest. A catheter may be placed while a fistula or graft is waiting to mature or when there is no other dialysis access available. When you've received a functional hemodialysis arteriovenous fistula or graft or it has matured, we will also safely remove your dialysis catheter.



- **Peritoneal Dialysis Catheter Placement and Repositioning**

Peritoneal dialysis is a process that uses the patient's peritoneum in the abdomen as a membrane across which fluids and dissolved substances are exchanged from the blood. Fluid is introduced through a permanent tube in the abdomen and is flushed out through regular exchanges. We can place this permanent tube, called a peritoneal dialysis catheter, if it is decided that this is the best method of dialysis for you.

