

## Patient Information

Your patient information helps us give you the best care possible:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Surgeon: \_\_\_\_\_

Dialysis Center: \_\_\_\_\_

Access Site: \_\_\_\_\_

Nephrologist: \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Care Physician: \_\_\_\_\_

# PREMIER

Vascular Access & Imaging Center

A Division of Premier Surgical Associates

### Specialized Care That's Easier for You

- Vascular surgeon available on-site Monday through Friday
- Specialized staff dedicated 100% to patients with kidney disease
- Same-day referrals and convenient scheduling – back home the same day
- Convenient parking just outside our office – no garages or stairs
- Comfortable office setting – no ER waiting rooms, no hospital stay



### Important Reminders

- Check thrill (vibration) in access and call if any changes.
- Do not wear tight clothing or jewelry on access arm.
- Do not carry heavy items or put pressure on access arm.
- Call if symptoms develop: numbness, swelling or cold.
- No blood pressure or routine labs allowed on access arm.
- Ask dialysis team to rotate needle sites in access.
- Call if any signs of infection.
- Wash your hands frequently and keep access clean.

Colony Park  
4713 Papermill Drive, Suite 100  
Knoxville, TN 37909  
865-588-8229

[www.premiersurgical.com](http://www.premiersurgical.com)

Healthy, ongoing care  
that's easier for you



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As East Tennessee's leader in vascular services, the Premier Vascular Access & Imaging Center is focused on providing exceptional care for patients and their families. We offer comprehensive on-site diagnostic expertise and educational services to patients who are at risk for kidney disease. Our highly trained vascular physicians and staff use state-of-the-art diagnostic equipment and the latest in minimally invasive vascular access surgical techniques.

Because we have physicians and staff dedicated 100% to serving patients with kidney disease, our patients experience fewer infections, a more expedient treatment course and an increased comfort level. As a result, patient families and caregivers experience reduced stress.

Our services are designed to be as convenient as possible while maintaining your well being.

## Choosing Your Vascular Access

Vascular access is an important passageway to your bloodstream created by a minor surgery and used for dialysis treatment. A high quality access will allow you to get the full benefit of dialysis to help you feel as well as possible.

There are two types of permanent vascular access. Both types of access have one common goal: to make it easier to reach your blood vessels for dialysis.

- **Arterial Venous Fistula (AVF):** A fistula is made by joining an artery to a vein. This is considered the best choice, because studies show it will last longer and has a lower rate of infection.
- **Arterial Venous Graft (AVG):** A graft is like a fistula because it joins a vein and an artery together. The difference is that a graft uses an implanted tube to connect the artery to the vein. A graft may be used if your blood vessels are not suitable for creating a fistula.

Our team will recommend and provide the vascular access best suited for you.

## Maintaining Your Vascular Access

Proper maintenance is essential for healthy fistula or graft access. Please notify us immediately if you notice any of the following symptoms:

- Cold, numb or painful hand or fingers
- Swollen arm or hand
- A change in the thrill (vibration) of your fistula or graft access
- High venous pressure during dialysis
- Prolonged bleeding after dialysis

## Testing Your Vascular Access

Different types of testing may be necessary for the placement and preservation of your vascular access.

*Doppler* is a painless exam to check the blood flow in the arteries of your arms and fingers.

*Duplex/Ultrasound* is a painless ultrasound exam to evaluate your fistula or graft access and identify any potential problems.

*Venogram/Fistulogram* is a minimally invasive x-ray procedure in which we inject dye to better visualize the flow through your access.



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## Ensuring Performance of Your Vascular Access

These treatments are performed to correct any problems with your access and return it to healthy function.

*Angioplasty/Balloon* is performed to repair and improve the blood flow in your fistula or graft access. During the angioplasty procedure, the physician threads a balloon-tipped catheter to the site of narrowing and inflates the balloon to open the blocked or narrowed passage.

*Declogging* is a procedure in which a catheter is inserted through a small puncture into your fistula or graft access. A device is advanced through the catheter to break the clot into small particles which are then removed through the catheter.

*Ligation of Branches* is a minor surgery performed to improve the blood flow through your fistula. Sometimes the vein used to create your access has too many branches which steal blood away from your fistula. When this happens, your fistula cannot mature and provide good dialysis. During surgery, the physician will tie off these branches to make the blood flow through your fistula stronger and better equipped to function properly.

