WHAT TO EXPECT: Arteriovenous Fistula (AVF)

FIS "Fast Track" System for AVF/AVG Malformations

Most patients requiring evaluation of their Arteriovenous Fistula and/or Grafts are referred to us from their dialysis center or nephrologist. We do not require a clinic visit for AVF/AVG evaluation and treatment as most require quick evaluation as the patients are dependent on them for dialysis.

FIS has developed a "fast-track" for patients with AVF/AVG malfunctions allowing the dialysis center to call our department and send the patient immediately to TGH without going to the ER. If the access is clotted and has no flow, thrombolysis (declot) will be performed on an urgent, but not emergent, basis to regain flow for dialysis. Upon arriving at TGH they will have blood tests, evaluation by Interventional Radiology and treatment within a few hours. This rapid treatment allows patients to be discharged and return back to their dialysis center for routine dialysis. The "fast-track" protocol was developed to avoid the typical pattern of sending patients to the ER with clotted fistulas/grafts and admitting them overnight. **The new system bypasses the ER, avoids admitting dialysis patients to new a nephrologist that isn't familiar to the patient and often prevents an overnight stay in the hospital.**

FIS Procedure Clinic Located at TGH

Patients sent through our "fast-track" system will be sent directly from the dialysis center to TGH and our ARNP will be alerted of their expected arrival. Patients are instructed to report to the 3rd floor of the Bayshore Pavilion (above the TGH Emergency Room) for registration and evaluation.

Preparation for the Day of Your Procedure

We ask that you DO NOT eat if they are en route to the hospital as this will delay the procedure. Our Procedure Registration is located at TGH in the Bayshore Pavilion Area K, take elevators to the 3rd floor and precede to the 3K Registration Desk. Valet parking is offered for small fee on the day of your procedure in front of the Main Entrance and self-parking is always available in the parking garage. Blood tests will be drawn upon arrival to determine if a patient can safely undergo a procedure with "twilight" or conscious sedation. **(See Map on Page 3)**

Most patients that arrive on the "fast track" have normal labs and are treated within 1-2 hours of arriving and discharged within 3-4 hours. Patients are then instructed to return to their dialysis center for routine dialysis.

In the event the blood tests demonstrate dangerous levels of fluid or potassium, a temporary dialysis catheter will be placed prior to any AVF/AVG treatment. Following dialysis at TGH, their fistula/graft will be treated and you will be discharged home, the temporary catheter will be removed once the fistula or graft is functioning properly.

Patients with fistulas/grafts with poor flow or "high-pressures" are typically evaluated on a non-emergent scheduled visit. Your nephrologist can make the appointment with TGH. **We ask that patients not eat anything after midnight on the night prior to the procedure.** Eating breakfast will force us to delay your procedure as we cannot give you anesthesia safely if you have eaten within 6 hours. Valet parking is offered in front of the Harbourside building as well as the main entrance, self-park is always available in the parking garage across the street from the hospital. We ask all patients to arrive two hours prior to their scheduled procedure and report to the 3rd floor of the Bayshore Pavilion. Blood tests are performed as soon as you arrive to assure you are well enough to undergo the procedure.

Post Procedure

Patients are observed for 1-2 hours following fistula/graft procedures to recover from the sedation. A sterile dressing is placed on the fistula/graft and patients are able to undergo dialysis immediately and may eat a normal diet.

***See Next Page for a Map of TGH**

TGH Tampa General Hospital

1 Tampa General Circle • Tampa, FL 33606

Main Switchboard (813) 844-7000
Patient Information (813) 844-7443
PhysicianFinder Referral Service 1-800-822-DOCS
Web site www.tgh.org

Form #: 8422, Rev. 11/11/08

Evaluation Clinic Location: 5 Tampa General Circle, 8th Floor, Suite 820, Tampa, FL 33606

Procedure Clinic Location: 1 Tampa General Circle, 3rd Floor, 3K Registration, Tampa, FL 33606

Scheduling (813) 844-4570 **After Hours** (813) 681-0464 **Fax** (813) 844-4032