

# Right access, right time, right reason

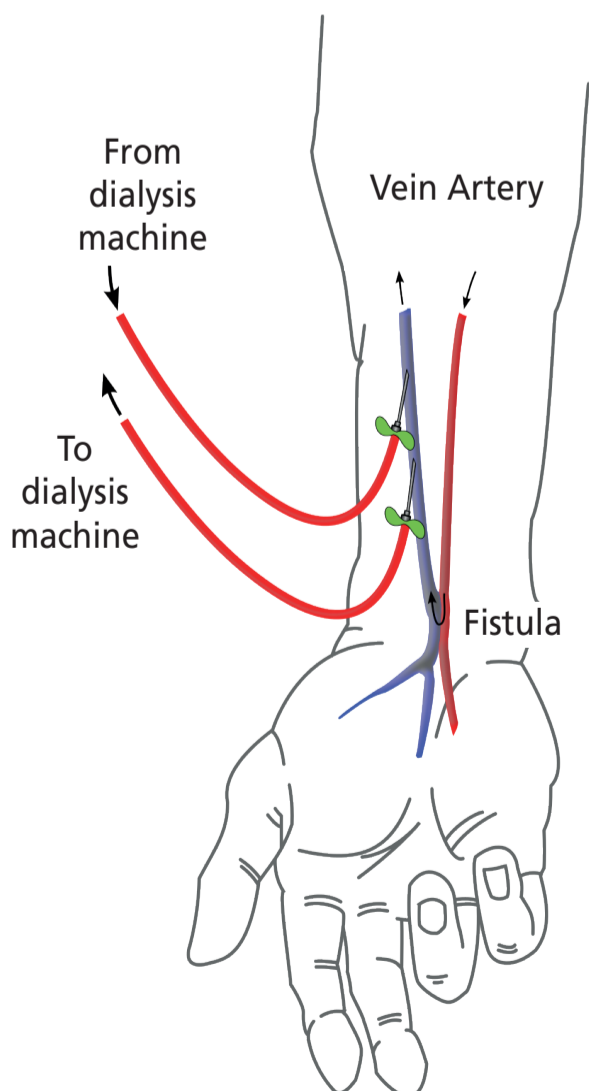
If you are having or going to be having haemodialysis (HD), we want you to be involved in discussions about the best **dialysis access** for you.

This flyer has been written to help you be involved in those discussions about your **dialysis access**.

Before HD can happen you will need a procedure to make **dialysis access**. There are different types of dialysis access, but most people benefit from having an arterio-venous fistula or AVF. An AVF is when an artery and a vein are joined together- usually in the wrist or forearm. Your AVF will be made some weeks before you need to start having HD.

## The main advantages of an AVF are:

- Less risk of developing a serious infection
- More effective dialysis treatment
- Less problems than with other types of dialysis access, so less admissions to hospital
- Lasts longer than a dialysis line
- You can swim and shower with no problems



**Having a well-functioning AVF is important for a good quality of life when you need HD treatment.**

- If it is not possible for you to have an AVF and you need another type of dialysis access, this will be explained to you.
- If you have never had a discussion about having an AVF and would like to talk about it, please speak to a Sister or Charge Nurse at the Renal unit or your kidney doctor.