

NxStage® has prepared this checklist to provide you with a quick summary of the steps to prepare and use your vascular access to help reduce the risk of infection. This checklist should be used with the NxSTEPS™ vascular access resources. It is not intended to replace your center's instructions or other training you may receive. Fill in the time blanks following your center's instructions.



Fistula or Graft Access Preparation / Cannulation

- Wash hands with antibacterial soap for at least 40 seconds and dry hands with paper towel
- Gather supplies and place on clean surface
- Disinfect the top of the anticoagulant bottle
- Draw up the anticoagulant as prescribed and recap the syringe
- Draw up 10cc normal saline and recap the syringe
- Open needle packages
- Wash access with antibacterial soap and dry with paper towel
- Place an underpad under the access extremity
- Evaluate, report abnormalities and/or fever
- Choose insertion sites (graft or non-buttonhole only)
- Put on facemask (patient and care partner), cleanse hands with antiseptic gel put on clean gloves
- Clean and disinfect sites (one pad per site)
- Soften buttonhole sites **for** ____ **minutes** and remove scabs* carefully
- Clean and disinfect sites again
- Allow disinfectant to dry (except alcohol)
- Apply a tourniquet above the access sites*
- Remove gloves, cleanse hands with antiseptic gel and put on a new pair of clean gloves
- Aseptically** insert needles
- Attach syringe to fistula needle tubing, pull back on the syringe to remove air, then flush with saline. Do not inject air.
- Place tape over the needle wings (avoid the insertion site)
- Cover the puncture sites with gauze
- Inject heparin as prescribed
- Aseptically connect needles to blood lines
- Remove gloves, facemask and cleanse hands with antiseptic gel

Vascular Access Checklist



Fistula or Graft Needle Removal

- Patient cleanse hands with antiseptic gel
- Care partner wash hands with antibacterial soap for **at least 40 seconds** and dry hands with paper towel
- Put on clean facemask and clean gloves
- Ensure all clamps are closed, then **aseptically** disconnect the vascular access lines from the blood lines
- Remove tape, then place gauze over insertion sites
- Remove 1 needle at a time (follow the angle of insertion)
- Apply 2 finger pressure to gauze on each site for **at least 10 minutes**
- Dispose of needles in sharps container
- If prescribed, when bleeding stops apply antimicrobial ointment to each site*
- When bleeding stops, apply clean dressing
- Evaluate access site, report abnormalities and fever
- Remove facemask, gloves and wash hands with antiseptic gel

* Buttonhole Fistula Only