

VASCULAR access nurse function:

The role and functions of vascular access nurses or managers were discussed, explaining the various tasks and responsibilities involved. These include:

1. Collaborating with nephrologists to map incidents and native arteriovenous accesses (AVV) through photographic, dermographic, and ultrasound techniques. Communication of findings is directed to the nurse manager.
2. Monthly or as-needed macro monitoring of critical or flagged accesses, recommending interventions when necessary.
3. Conducting first cannulations or providing support for decision-making during cannulation of signaled accesses.
4. Developing direct care plans for prevalent vascular access based on daily work schedules.
5. Programming autonomous and interdependent interventions focused on vascular access in information systems and through alternative means such as email and agendas. This includes physical examinations, complementary measures, treatment administration, and first cannulations.
6. Monitoring and communicating quality standards results to the team.

Vascular access nurses (VANs) are primarily involved in hemodialysis but also collaborate with vascular surgeons and interventional radiologists. They are active during the pre-dialysis phase, providing instructions and information to patients before and after vascular access development.

To become a vascular access nurse, additional training of approximately 15 months is required on top of being a hemodialysis nurse.

The tasks of vascular access nurses vary among centers, with some exclusively focusing on patients with complications, while others work alongside other nurses and provide assistance with complications as needed.

Always looking forward to more discussions on all Renal related issues!

Chava & Sabine