

VASCULAR SURGERY ASSOCIATES, L.L.C.

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DISCHARGE INSTRUCTIONS

PATIENT CARE INSTRUCTION AFTER HEMODIALYSIS GRAFT SURGERY

ACTIVITIES:

- No lifting with operated arm.
- No tub bathing. You may sponge bathe.
- You may shower in 3 days if you do not have an external dialysis catheter in the chest or groin. If you do have an external catheter, you may sponge bathe only.

DIET:

- Resume your pre-hospitalization diet.

MEDICATIONS:

- Resume pre-hospitalization medications unless instructed otherwise.
- Pain reliever as prescribed. Take with food to avoid nausea.
- Ecotrin (325 mg coated aspirin) 1 tablet a day unless taking Coumadin or there is a history of stomach ulcers.

DRESSINGS:

- Leave dressing on arm intact for 24 hours.
- Remove gauze sponges after 24 hours. Reapply gauze sponges if needed for drainage.
- Remove butterfly strips after 3 days or at 2 days if strips are wet or soiled.
- Sterile dressing to dialysis catheter as necessary (this may be done by dialysis nurses).
- Clean uncovered wounds with Peroxide once a day.

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:

- Swelling of the arm is common. Elevate arm to help control swelling.
- Call office at number above for a post-op appointment.
- Call office for temperature greater than 101, excessive bleeding from surgical sites, drainage from surgical sites, severe pain in hand or arm, significant swelling in hand, or for any questions.
- If graft is not functioning properly call our office, or have the dialysis unit call our office immediately to open the graft.

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