




ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTIVE

DATE: DECEMBER 1, 2017
To: Contra Costa County Pre-hospital First Responders and EMS Providers
FROM: Dr. David Goldstein, EMS Medical Director 
SUBJECT: IV ACCESS OF FISTULAS AND GRAFTS (17-CLN-003)

Dialysis and indwelling devices serve as critical vascular access points for medically fragile patients. For this reason, the following changes are effective immediately:

1. Dialysis fistulas/grafts may be accessed only in the following scenarios:
 - a. The unstable patient is at a dialysis center and the fistula/graft is currently accessed.
 - b. The patient is in cardiac arrest and attempts at IV and IO access have failed.
2. Central venous access devices that require the penetration of skin, such as internal subcutaneous infusion ports, may not be used.

The LEMSA recognizes that all field providers are currently undergoing 4th quarter training on this topic and that this directive may contradict that training. Field providers should review this directive and the following updated documents: Policy 4011 - Prehospital Management of Pre-existing Patient Medical Devices/Equipment; Treatment Guideline A09 – Dialysis/Renal Failure; and A11 – Emergencies Involving Indwelling Central Lines.

Questions concerning this change should be referred to Jesse Allured, Program Coordinator, at (925) 646-4690 or via e-mail at Jesse.Allured@hsd.cccounty.us.

