



Backgrounder

Lifeline Vascular Access works with premier physician practices to develop and manage dedicated outpatient centers that provide focused, coordinated, outcomes-driven vascular care to patients. Lifeline Vascular Access has received the Gold Seal of Approval™ from The Joint Commission.

Lifeline Vascular Access History

Lifeline Vascular Access, formed as RMS Lifeline Inc. in 1998, was created to improve patient outcomes and quality of life by optimizing vascular access care. To achieve this, Lifeline Vascular Access provides services that streamline the management and delivery of care to patients. This allows physicians to focus on practicing medicine and providing quality care for patients.

Without a doubt, as the nation's leading provider of vascular management services to physicians, Lifeline Vascular Access is able to integrate information systems and draw on the data and experience from multiple centers to continually improve the delivery of vascular care and compare performance to national benchmarks.

Lifeline Vascular Access currently operates centers in 19 states and Puerto Rico, in which physicians have performed more than 650,000 interventional procedures to date. For more information, visit www.lifelinevascularaccess.com.

Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD)

Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) is a slow progressive loss of renal function over a period of time. CKD affects as many as 20 million Americans. The most common causes are diabetic nephropathy, hypertension and glomerulonephritis. CKD that leads to kidney failure and requires some forms of renal replacement therapy – such as dialysis – is called End-Stage Renal Disease (ESRD).

End-Stage Renal Disease (ESRD)

End-Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) is the complete or near-complete failure of the kidneys to function. The disease occurs when the kidneys are no longer able to function at a level necessary for everyday life. At this point, the complications are multiple and severe, and without dialysis or a kidney transplant, death will occur from the accumulation of fluids and waste products in the body.

Vascular Access Care

In order to receive hemodialysis treatment for ESRD, patients require access to their bloodstream, called a “vascular access.” This access allows the patient's blood to travel to and

from the dialysis machine at large volumes and high speeds so that toxins, waste and extra fluids can be adequately removed from the body.

Lifeline Vascular Access centers focus on the repair and maintenance of these access sites. Procedures performed include: angioplasty, thrombectomy, catheter placements, removals and exchanges, diagnostic angiograms and pre-dialysis vessel mapping. Each center's dedicated patient care team focuses on minimizing emergency procedures and hospitalizations through extensive interventional training and timely treatment to lessen missed dialysis treatments.

Lifeline Vascular Access centers follow the National Kidney Foundation's K/DOQI clinical practice guidelines for dialysis vascular access and track patient care, providing reportable outcomes to the entire team. Based on extensive data review, Lifeline Vascular Access has developed a continuous quality-improvement process that assists physicians in optimizing each patient's access care.

Treatment of Peripheral Arterial Disease

Peripheral Arterial Disease (PAD) occurs when arteries in the legs become narrowed or clogged with plaque (cholesterol), reducing blood flow to the legs. PAD can lead to leg pain when walking, disability and even amputation. Blocked leg arteries can be a red flag that other arteries, including those around the heart and brain, may also be blocked – increasing the risk of heart attack or stroke.

PAD affects approximately 8 million Americans, or 12-20% of American 65 and older. 21% of incident ESRD patients and over 30% of prevalent ESRD patients have PAD.

Interventional procedures performed for the diagnosis and treatment of PAD include evaluation, diagnostic angiography and lower extremity revascularization.