



You have been scheduled for an Angiogram

Why do I need an Angiogram?

Your dialysis staff has recommended that you have an Angiogram procedure on your vascular access. A narrowing or blockage in your fistula or graft may be causing high pressure readings on the dialysis machine, longer bleeding when needles removed, difficulty putting needles in, or poor results from monthly lab results. If left unchecked, this could progress to the total clotting of your access.

How do I prepare for the procedure?

You will be notified of your procedure date and time of arrival. Take nothing to eat or drink 6 hours before your scheduled time. You will be unable to drive because of the sedation you will be receiving, so bring a driver with you or make other transportation arrangements. Bring a list of your current medications with you. Notify the Access Center at time of scheduling if you are allergic to IV Dye or IV Contrast, or if you are on a blood thinner medication.

What is an Angiogram and how is it done?

An angiogram is injecting IV Contrast into your graft or fistula while taking X-Ray pictures. The Nephrologist will start an IV in your access for this procedure (similar to dialysis needle). After pictures are taken, should a narrowing or blockage be found, you will then receive some sedation. The Doctor will use a small balloon to open the areas up, this is called an Angioplasty. If further treatment is necessary, a small device called a Stent may be placed to hold the access or blood vessel open.

How long does this procedure take?

You will be given a scheduled time to arrive. Checking in, procedure, and recovery all take about 2 hours. We recommend someone be with you at home after the procedure until you are fully awake from sedation.