

Renal Department
Patient Information



The Information Standard Certified Member

Information

If you need this information in large print, easy read, on audiotape or in another language please call 0800 7838058 or e-mail pals@dchft.nhs.uk

If you wish to obtain a list of the sources used to develop this information leaflet please call 0800 7838058 or e-mail patient.info@dchft.nhs.uk

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Emergency Bleeding Pack

Arteriovenous Fistula

Arteriovenous Graft

This pack contains 4 packs of sterile gauze and 1 roll of Micropore tape

Now your Fistula/Graft is being used, as a safeguard in case you start to bleed at home, we'd like you to have this 'Emergency bleeding pack'. If you have a partner/carer at home please show it to him/her and keep it somewhere safe and easy to find. Bleeding at home is rare but it is important for you to know what to do if it happens.

Please make sure you let a nurse know about the bleeding before your needles are put in next dialysis session.

What to do if your Fistula or Graft starts to bleed

If the bleeding is minimal to moderate:

This is when bleeding stops with pressure after 10 mins and does not seep through gauze.

- Apply a folded gauze swab to bleeding site and apply firm pressure with 2 fingers for 10 minutes – **no peeking**
- When bleeding stops apply fresh gauze and tape or a clean pressure pad
- Telephone your dialysis unit for further advice - numbers below.

If the bleeding is extensive:

This is when bleeding seeps through gauze even under pressure and does not stop after 10 mins.

- Get help from someone in the home or nearby
- Call 999 - ask for an ambulance and explain that you are bleeding from your dialysis fistula or graft
- Apply a folded gauze swab to bleeding site and apply firm pressure with 2 fingers until help arrives – **no peeking**
- It can help if you sit down and raise your bleeding arm above your shoulder. (This can slow down the bleeding because blood has to go up hill.)

If you have any questions or concerns about this leaflet please speak to a dialysis nurse at your next dialysis session.

Dialysis Unit Telephone Numbers:

- Dorchester Dialysis Unit: **01305 255345**
- Yeovil Dialysis Unit: **01935 847290**
- Poole Dialysis Unit: **01202 307430**
- Bournemouth Dialysis Unit: **01202 704411**

In the evenings or at night please telephone Prince of Wales Ward: **01305 255139**