



## BLEEDING FROM ACCESS AFTER DIALYSIS

### GENERAL INFORMATION:

#### **Why do I need to know what to do if my access bleeds after I leave the dialysis facility?**

Bleeding from your dialysis access after leaving dialysis doesn't happen often, you need to know how to manage bleeding if it does occur. **The most important thing to know is that the bleeding must be controlled or stopped quickly.**

Controlling or stopping the bleeding from your dialysis access will help prevent: blood loss, hypotension (low blood pressure), dizziness, and life threatening blood loss.

#### **How do I control or stop the bleeding from my dialysis access?**

- Applying firm direct pressure is the best way to control bleeding. Do not peek or release pressure before time to check the site.
- Apply direct pressure to the site using a clean gauze pad and two fingers.
- If after 15 minutes of applying direct pressure the site keeps bleeding continue to apply pressure for another 15 minutes.
- If after 30 minutes of applying pressure the site keeps bleeding after you release pressure, reapply pressure and have someone drive you to the ER, or if you're alone, call 911.
- If bleeding is stopped after applying direct pressure put a clean Band-Aid or 4x4 gauze pad with tape over the site.
- If at any time you cannot get the bleeding controlled by applying direct pressure call 911 immediately.

Always make the dialysis nurses aware at your next treatment that you had bleeding from your access at home.