Going home
Please make pre-arrangements to have a friend or family member available to pick you up after your recovery.

At Home
- You must not drive for 24 hours.
- Follow directions from dialysis unit.
- Contact your doctor if you experience redness at the puncture site or it is warm to the touch, fever, rash, numbness.
- If you experience significant bleeding or swelling press firmly over the wound site. Call 911.

Medical Imaging

Angiogram & Angioplasty of Your AV Fistula/ Graft

What is an Angioplasty of Your AV Fistula/ Graft?
Somewhere in your fistula or graft you may have a narrowing, which means not enough blood is getting through it. When there is lack of blood flow through your fistula, your dialysis treatments become less effective. If the narrowing becomes worse, blood flow may be lost completely. This will cause your graft/fistula to become blocked. This blockage will be discovered during the angiogram (injection of x-ray dye into the graft), and may be fixed with angioplasty (inflation of a balloon in the narrowed segment to re-establish blood flow).
**Introduction**

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the doctor who referred you for this procedure and be sure to advise if you have any dye/contrast allergies.

If you need to change your appointment time or date, please contact the Dialysis department at 705-523-7100 ext. 3925.

**Risks and Benefits**

This procedure will benefit you because it will help us treat your symptoms and possibly assist the surgeon for further treatment. You may feel pressure during the balloon inflation. There is a small risk of bleeding, reaction to the dye (nausea, rash, swelling). There is an extremely small risk of infection or damage to the blood vessel (which may require surgical intervention).

**Before the procedure**

You will be required to have a blood test and ECG in the week preceding your angiogram.

**The Day of the Procedure**

You may eat the morning of your procedure and can drink clear fluids. Please ensure someone drives you to the hospital and is available to pick you up after your recovery.

Your medication instructions will be discussed with you by the nurse. You will need to register in Medical Imaging (level 2 North Tower) and you will be brought to the Angiography Recovery Room, where you will be required to answer several questions about your health and current medication. Your blood pressure and pulse will be recorded, and you will change into a hospital gown. The Radiologist will discuss all risks and benefits of the procedure with you prior to signing a consent form. Please ask any questions you may have before signing the consent.

**During the procedure**

An intravenous line may be started upon entry into the room through which pain/relaxation medication can be administered should you require it. In the procedure room, you will lay on your back on a specialized x-ray table. Your skin will be sterilized with an antiseptic solution and you will be covered with sterile sheets. The doctor will inject local anaesthetic to numb your skin. This will sting briefly. The doctor will then access your graft/fistula and insert a small plastic tube (catheter) into it. The dye will be injected through this tube. If a blockage is discovered, the doctor will place the balloon catheter across the narrowed area and inflate it. This may need to be repeated several times. We will provide explanations to you throughout the procedure. A nurse and x-ray technologist will be with you. Your blood pressure, pulse, and oxygen levels will be monitored. The procedure normally lasts approximately 45 minutes, but may take longer.

**After the Procedure**

Once your test is completed, you will be transported to the Angiography Recovery Room. The catheter will be removed and pressure will be held at the needle site to stop the bleeding. You will be required to remain on the stretcher for a short period of time. During this time your blood pressure and pulse will be monitored. If you feel unwell at any-time, please advise the nurse.

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**Occlusion**

![A](#)

**Balloon catheter**

![B](#)

**Post angioplasty**

![C](#)