(A) Policy Statement

AVF (Fistula), AVG (Graft) or hemodialysis catheters are to be used for blood access purposes only with specific permission of patient's nephrologist.

(B) Purpose of Policy

To protect hemodialysis access sites from inappropriate uses.

(C) Procedure

1. An order must be obtained from a nephrologist prior to using a patient's AV Fistula, AV Graft, or hemodialysis catheter for a blood draw or IV infusion.

2. Only trained RN's may perform venipunctures on AV Fistulas or AV Grafts.

3. Hemodialysis Unit staff are available as resource persons.

4. Refer to Mosby Nursing Skills for flushing of hemodialysis catheters.