

“Fistula-First” : Promote the use of Permanent Vascular Access ( AVF/AVG) in all suitable dialysis patients and decrease the prevalence of Central Venous Catheter (CVC) in HGH Dialysis Facilities .

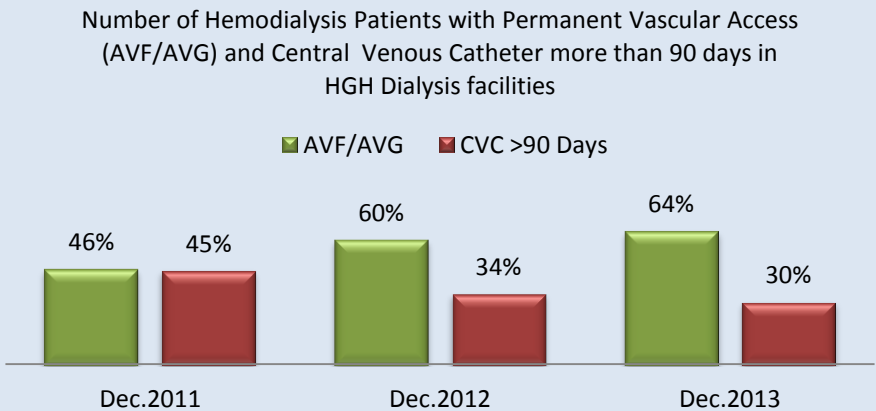
**Problem :** Less than 50% of dialysis patients were having their dialysis through Permanent Vascular Access (AVF/AVG) , while more than 40% of them were done thru Central Venous Catheter.

**AIM:**  
To *increase* the number of Permanent Vascular Access creation (AVF/AVG) by 20% and *reduce* the number of dialysis patients with CVC more than 90 days by 10 % , to reach the International Guidelines Recommendation (*prevalence of using AVF/AVG > 65% and the prevalence of using CVC more than 90 days <10%*)

- INTERVENTION :**
- The barriers to promote the goal of “fistula-first” were identified .
  - Dialysis Staff Nurses (SNs)were assigned to be responsible for vascular access care , and to coordinate with the concerned Departments .
  - Educate the pre-End Stage Renal Disease(ESRD) patients about the importance of AVF, and encourage them to seek AVF as Permanent Vascular Access .
  - Establish Quality Improvement Program in vascular access, monthly review of vascular access outcomes.
  - Initiate a coordination process with the concerned Departments (Vascular Surgery, Radiology and Admission Department) to reduce waiting time for vascular access creation.

**TEAM:**  
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**CONCLUSIONS :**

- We were able to achieve our goal by increasing the rate of permanent access to almost 20% (18%)
- The prevalence of CVC >90days was decreased by 15% by the end of 2013

**NEXT STEPS:**

- To increase the prevalence of AVF/AVG to 70%
- To decrease the prevalence of using CVC > 90 days to 20% by the end of December 2016
- Continue to monitor vascular access outcome on a quarterly basis