DIALYSIS CATHETER

Week Before
- Call 805-792-0115 if you take blood thinners (i.e., Lovenox, Coumadin, Plavix, Effient, Brilinta, Xarelto, and Pradaxa). We will consult with your primary physician or cardiologist to MAKE SURE IT IS SAFE to stop the blood thinners. If safe, you will need to be off of Lovenox for 24 hours and all others for at least 5 days.
- Watch any educational videos if sent to your email.

Night Before
- Drink lots of water the night before the procedure.
- Make a list of all the medications you take.
- Do not eat or drink anything for 8 hours prior to your procedure (except medications). Typically, this means do not eat or drink anything after midnight. Do not drink coffee the morning of the procedure.

Day of Procedure
- Take your usual medication with a sip of water. Blood pressure medication is especially important to take. DO NOT take blood thinners.
- Leave jewelry and other valuables at home.
- Bring a photo ID, Health Insurance Card, medication list and someone to drive you home.
- Enter through the Emergency Room Entrance.
- Check in at the Volunteer Desk in the Main Lobby.
- Registration (30-45 min)
- Volunteer will take you to Day Stay. A nurse will get you ready for the procedure (60 min)
- Procedure (60 min)
- Your family or friend(s) will wait in the Main Hospital Waiting Room.
- After the procedure, you will be brought back to Day Stay for recovery (1 hour).
- You will get 1 or maybe 2 chest x-rays to look for a collapsed lung.
- Your family will be called back when appropriate.
- If your chest x-ray is ok and you are stable, you will be discharged home.
- Someone should drive you home and stay with you overnight in case you need help.

After Procedure
- Remove bandage at the base of our neck in 72 hours. It is ok to shower but do not soak in the tub. Keep the catheter dry when showering. Cover it with plastic wrap.
- OK to restart your blood thinners 24 hours after your procedure.
- Resume all of your other medications immediately.
- If you are in distress or have a medical emergency, call 911.
- Watch for sign of infection (fever, chills, increasing redness around the catheter). If this happens, you will need antibiotics and the catheter removed. Call (805) 792-0115.
- If the catheter becomes clogged and can not be reopened at the infusion center, call (805) 792-0115 to have your catheter evaluated.