

Cannulation for the *Advanced* Cannulator Self-Learning Package

FINAL May 6, 2008

Please review the PowerPoint presentation “Cannulation for the *Advanced* Cannulator” and then answer the questions below. Once you have completed the questions, please check your responses using the answer key. Submit completed answer sheets to your VA Nurse or Renal Educator for their review with you.

In addition to completing the PowerPoint presentation and the quiz, you need to complete the following to be designated as an *Advanced Cannulator*:

- Under the observation of an advanced cannulator, successfully cannulate 3 AVFs and 3 AVGs designated as “complicated” that may or may not have been previously cannulated.
- Under the observation of an advanced cannulator, successfully cannulate 3 new AVFs and 3 new AVGs designated as “easy.”
- Under the observation of an advanced cannulator, successfully form a buttonhole track for an AVF.

Advanced Cannulators may cannulate all AVFs and AVGs including new accesses and accesses where buttonhole sites/tracks are being established. Uses steel or teflon needles. Advanced Cannulators also observe cannulation skills of colleagues and offer feedback.

Questions

1. What types of accesses may an *advanced cannulator* cannulate?
2. Describe a “complicated” AVF and AVG.
3. When should the MD or VA Coordinator be consulted regarding a specific access?
4. What are the benefits of a buttonhole track in an AVF?
5. What are the drawbacks of a buttonhole track in an AVF?
6. What patients are candidates for buttonholes?

7. What are the characteristics of a good potential buttonhole site?
8. How many cannulations are usually required to form a buttonhole track?
9. Ideally, how many buttonhole sites should be available for each patient?
10. Rank the following in order of importance when offering feedback to colleagues:

<i>Feedback to Colleagues</i>	<i>Ranking: 1 (most important) – 3 (least important)</i>
What you say	
What you don't say (non-verbal)	
The way you say it	