



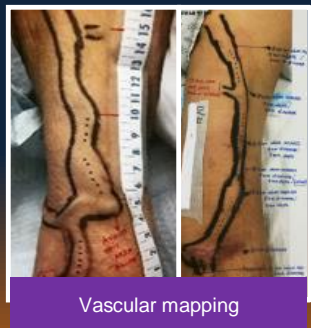
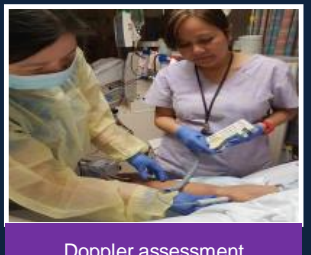
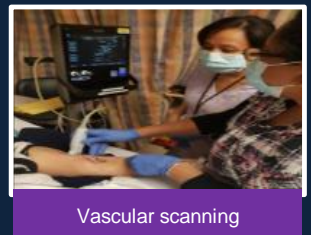
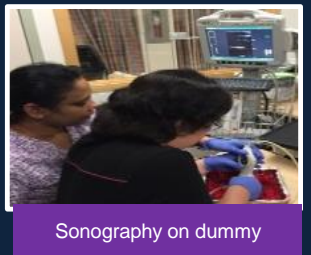
Vascular access link nurses initiative: A bold commitment to enhanced care

Surrey Memorial Hospital, British Columbia, Canada

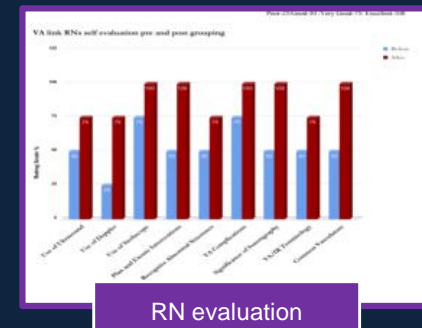
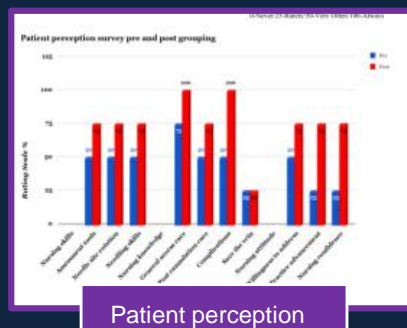


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INTRODUCTION	<p>In 2015, the absence of a renal vascular access nurse in our unit has led to the conceptualization & the establishment of the Vascular access link nurses coalition by our front-line colleague, Neil Penalosa.</p> <p>To date, 74% of our nursing workforce are working in solidarity to sustain the enhancements in patient care & to further develop strategies in the proper utilization of nursing & of medical resources.</p>	OBJECTIVES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To encourage a culture of adaptation & a conglomeration of individual ideas. To amalgamate understanding of the basic principles in vascular access care & management. To foster a partnership with patients in the preservation of the renal vasculature.
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	Planning	Organizing	Learning	Guiding	Managing
METHODOLOGY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development & deliberation of timeline. Presentation of proposal to leadership. "Open house" information Session. Recruitment of volunteer-members. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation of outline for the education sessions. Selection of topics of interest for the presentation of members. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review: concepts in vascular care & management (8 weeks segmented education) Sonography (20 hours) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Access scanning > ESSAX ultrasound guided cannulation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Group validation of interventions with VARN. Supervised cannulations on dummies & on real arms. Availability of VA link peer support on every shift. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Follow-up progress of members. Periodic review of access care plan. Identification of new ideas for improvement. Recognition of individual contributions.



RESULTS

A comparative analysis of the pre & the post-grouping survey results have validated **improvements to measured elements**, as follows:

- A) Patient perception survey (on nursing)**
 - 75% in general access care & management
 - 67% in psycho-emotional influences
- B) RN evaluation**
 - 67% in skills development (Sonography & care planning)
 - 50% in knowledge (Vascular abnormalities & its management)

Inspired by the experiences gathered from the 1st & 2nd groups of volunteers, a new group is underway for yet another segment of concerted efforts which is aimed at one purpose, **to exemplify the care services of the frontline nurses**.

Ideas

Skills

Outlook

BENEFITS	Patients	Offers genuine assurance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promotes assurance & comfort to the patient & the family. Enhances patient's knowledge about vascular access. Increases the sustainability of vascular access. Enables patient/family to be pro-active in self-care management.
	Nurses	Facilitates empowerment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uplifts self-confidence & team morale. Fosters exemplary nursing action, thus motivating other staff. Effective implementation of action plans. formulate customized care plan based on conventional & contemporary (sonography) assessment methods. Considers complicated access sites as opportunities for skills development.
	Health authority	Saves resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spares MD from unnecessary neck line insertion. Promotes proper utilization of time, supplies, manpower, & monetary resources. Averts unnecessary referrals & diagnostics (Radiology/ Surgery)

Future plans

- Nurturance of the nursing initiative through networking.
- 100% pro-active involvement of nurses in the unit.
- Generate more opportunities for follow-up & for service enhancements.

FEEDBACK

- "Recently, there isn't much cases of thrombolysis. Are you making referrals elsewhere?". (Radiologist)
- "It's always comforting having a VA resource person on a shift". (Charge RN, Renal unit)
- "It is a brilliant idea having illustrations & vascular access care plans in every patient chart". (Nephrologist)
- "With your great cannulation skills, you (RN) have spared me from inserting a (vascular) line, for the third time". (Nephrologist)
- "Your (VA RN) assessment findings have helped me plan the workflow better". (Charge RN, Renal unit)
- "A well invested public funded project. Well done, team! (Leadership)
- "I am truly enthusiastic to carry-on & contribute to skills development". (VA link RN)

Acknowledgment Our heartfelt appreciation to the leadership team for the privilege, which enabled the nurturance of our practice, to our colleagues whose encouragement has led us to a higher level of care, & to all our patients with whom we dedicate our efforts.