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## MEI Releases Endovascular AV Fistula Education for Dialysis Technicians and Nurses



Madison, Wisconsin— The non-profit [Medical Education Institute \(MEI\)](http://Medical Education Institute (MEI)) has released an educational supplement to the [6<sup>th</sup> Edition](#) of the *Core Curriculum for the Dialysis Technician*. [Endovascular AV Fistula Creation and Use](#) is a free download developed by MEI with an educational grant provided by Becton Dickinson and Company (BD).

Until recently, surgical connection of an artery and vein was necessary to create an *arteriovenous fistula*, or AV fistula—to handle high hemodialysis blood-flow rates and be close to the skin’s surface for cannulation. Now, there is a new, non-surgical approach. Endovascular AV fistula creation uses a needle to access an artery and a vein. A catheter is threaded into each vessel, and magnetic or heat energy are used to connect the vessels. The procedure allows patients to recover quickly, with less pain, and without a visible scar.

MEI Executive Director Dori Schatell, MS, notes, “*Endovascular AVFs are the first major breakthrough in hemodialysis fistulas since Cimino and Brescia in the 1960s. Patients have a chance to obtain a functional hemodialysis access without requiring a large scar and risking a painful surgical recovery. We are delighted to have the opportunity to disseminate vital information about these new fistulas and how to use them to educate dialysis staff and improve patients’ dialysis experiences.*”

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