

# McLeod Dialysis Access Center Procedures

## **Central Venous Catheter (CVC)**

A central venous catheter is a long plastic tube which is shaped like a “y”. During a procedure, a vascular surgeon will make a small incision in the skin where a suitable vein has been selected. The location of the CVC could be in the neck, upper chest, or groin. A guide wire is used to insert the catheter into the vein.

## **Arteriovenous Fistula (AVF)**

Surgeons refer to arteriovenous fistula as the best option of hemodialysis access. An AVF is a minor surgery connecting one of the arteries to the veins. This can be done in a patient’s non-dominant arm, or leg if veins in the arm are not healthy. The AVF fistula allows more blood to flow through the vein at a faster rate, increasing pressure on the vein. With this pressure, the vein is strengthened and stretched, allowing more blood to pass through dialysis, resulting in less time.

## **Arteriovenous Graft (AG)**

Similar to an arteriovenous fistula – an arteriovenous graft is a procedure where a vascular surgeon connects an end of a synthetic tube (the graft) to a vein and connects the opposite end of the tube to an artery. An AG is performed when the veins are too small or weak.