Vasc-Alert LLC
415 Columbia St.
Suite 3200
Lafayette, IN 47901-1338
765.775.2525 voice
765.775.2527 fax

Protocol Examples for Using the Vasc-Alert Triage List with Access Risk Score

The following referral protocol examples are used by Vasc-Alert customers to incorporate the Vasc-Alert Triage List and access risk score into their vascular access management programs.

Protocol Example 1:

A Physician Assistant is responsible for referring patients who have access risk scores of 8, 9 and 10 to the vascular access center. The PA is also reviewing patients with access risk scores of 6 to 7 and considering other indicators in deciding whether or not to refer those patients for access evaluation. The access center then sends intervention reports to Vasc-Alert.

Protocol Example 2:

A large nephrology practice who serves as medical directors at multiple groups of dialysis centers serviced by two access centers, has made the decision reinforced by the lead interventionalist to use the following protocol.

1. Refer patients with access risk scores of 9-10 to be seen at the access center within a week.
2. Refer patients with access risk scores of 7-8 to be seen at the access center within 2 weeks.

For tracking, all referrals for access evaluation should be documented into Vasc-Alert. The minimal information needed is the date and procedure requested. Indications for referral may also be marked. Interventions for patients going to one of the access centers will be entered into the Vasc-Alert records from the data files we receive. Interventions should be manually entered into Vasc-Alert for patients who are not going to these access centers.

Under the guidance of an access manager who oversees all of these groups of dialysis centers, each center is expected to review the Triage List and refer based off of this protocol.

Protocol Example 3:

The following protocol was implemented by a nephrology practice who oversee multiple dialysis centers as well as an access center.

Purpose: To consistently offer patients Access Center Referral to maintain a functional internal access (Fistula or Graft).

1. Review Triage List with Vasc-Alert Access Risk Score.
2. Access Risk Score of 10 indicates immediate referral needed.
3. Access Risk Score of 9 indicates a referral should be scheduled as soon as possible.
4. Access Risk Score of 8 indicates a clinical evaluation of the access may be needed to determine if access intervention is needed.
5. Access Risk Score of 7 or below are assessed by the physician.

Protocol Example 4:

This protocol is being used in an area with 41 JV dialysis units and a large nephrology practice with an access center.

1. Patients with Access Risk Scores 6 or above should be referred for evaluation
2. Any patient with an increase in Access Risk Score of >2 from baseline for 3 consecutive treatments is considered high risk and should be referred for evaluation.