It only takes a minute to save your lifeline.

Look

Listen

Feel

www.esrdncc.org

This material was prepared by the End-Stage Renal Disease Network Coordinating Center (NCC), under contract with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), an agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The contents presented do not necessarily reflect CMS policy. CMS Contract Number: HHSM-500-2013-NW002C.
Look

The skin over your access is all one color and looks like the skin around it.

There is redness, swelling or drainage. There are skin bulges with shiny, bleeding, or peeling skin.

GO

Looking good!

STOP

Contact your dialysis care team if you notice any “stop” signs!

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**Listen**

When you place your access next to your ear, you hear a sound. And it sounds the same as the last time you checked it.

You place your access next to your ear and hear no sound. Or it sounds different than it did the last time you checked it.

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**GO**

**STOP**

*Sounding good!*

Contact your dialysis care team if you notice any “stop” signs!

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Feel

**Thrill:** a vibration or buzz in the full length of the access.

**Pulse:** slight beating like a heartbeat. Fingers placed lightly on the access should move slightly.

**Pulsatile:** The beat is stronger than a normal pulse. Fingers placed lightly on the access will rise and fall with each beat.

**GO**

*Good to go!*

**STOP**

*Contact your dialysis care team if you notice any “stop” signs!*

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