



The Surgical Institute  
at True North

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# What is an AV Fistula?

## How will the day go for me?

**Date of procedure:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Arrival Time:** The hospital staff will contact you the day before your procedure and give you an exact time of arrival. If you have not been contacted by 3:00 PM please call the hospital at (580) 251-8449 or our office at (580) 255-9797.

**Expected length of procedure:** There will be 30 minutes of prep time. The surgery will take approximately 60 minutes and you will be in recovery for 30 additional minutes.

### What happens after I arrive?

- You will check in at Admissions and Outpatient Services (see map included in packet).
- Pre-op laboratories/imaging will be completed if not previously performed.
- A nurse will confirm your history, start your IV and fluids will be given.
- Dr. Miller will visit with you prior to your procedure and answer any questions you might have.
- Anesthesia will arrive to review your history and take you to the operating room.
- Anesthesia will be administered and the surgery will begin.

### AV Fistula

What is an AV Fistula?

• An arteriovenous (AV) fistula is created when a patient requires permanent access for dialysis. With an AV fistula, blood flows from the artery directly into the vein, increasing the blood pressure and amount of blood flow through the vein. The increased flow and pressure causes the veins to enlarge, making them capable of delivering the blood flow needed for dialysis treatment.

### The Procedure

• The procedure is completed under moderate sedation anesthesia. A small incision is made, allowing access to the selected arteries and veins. A surgical connection is made between an artery and a vein. After the AV fistula has been created, it will take several weeks to a month for the fistula to mature enough to be used for your hemodialysis treatments. Your surgeon will give you clearance when the fistula is mature and can be used for dialysis.

