



**March 26, 2020: From the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS):** CMS previously released guidance to defer nonessential planned surgical procedures. Following the release of this guidance, we have received feedback that providers are experiencing difficulties scheduling for placement or repair of Arteriovenous Fistulas, Arteriovenous Grafts, Peritoneal Dialysis Catheters, and intravenous catheters. We wish to clarify that these planned procedures are essential in that establishing vascular access is crucial for End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) patients to receive their life-sustaining dialysis treatments. Without this, temporary access would be established using catheters but risk significantly higher risk of infection, morbidity and mortality. While recognizing this, there will be instances in which local conditions will not allow for these procedures to be done due to resource constraints related to the Public Health Emergency.