

FISTULA FIRST BENCHMARK FACILITIES

Benchmarking is a search for best practices that lead to superior performance. For example, the American Society for Quality advises those striving for performance excellence to know their strengths and weaknesses, compare themselves to the best practices in their industry, and learn from industry leaders and their competition. Find best practices wherever they exist, modify them to fit your needs, and incorporate them into your own operations.

Achievable Benchmarks of Care (ABC™), an approach to benchmarking developed at the University of Alabama, is an objective way of identifying benchmark care levels *already achieved* by top performers in an industry. Using this approach, the Network recently calculated the current benchmark for use of AVFs in its region. As of October 2007, this rate was 63%. This represents the average performance of the best facilities that, together, care for about 10% of all patients in Network 5.

We salute these best-in-class facilities that are taking steps to reduce patient morbidity and mortality through AVF use, and we invite all facilities to join us at the 2008 Annual Council Meeting, where the Network's benchmark facilities will be recognized.

District of Columbia

DaVita - SE

Maryland

BMA - Rockville
DaVita - Catonsville
DaVita - Dundalk
DaVita - J.B. Zachary
DCA - Chevy Chase
Holy Cross Hospital
Kidney Care of Laurel

West Virginia

FMC - Elkins
FMC - Two Virginias
West Virginia University Hospitals Inc
Wheeling Dialysis Center

Virginia

BMA - Giles
BMA - Twin County
BMA - Wytheville
CDC - Springfield
CDC - Woodbridge
Charlottesville North Dialysis
DaVita - Chester Dialysis
DaVita - Harrisonburg Dialysis
DaVita - Martinsville Dialysis
DaVita - Tyson's Corner
Dominion Dialysis Center
First Colonial - DaVita at Home
FMC - Lorton
Garrisonville Dialysis Center
Lexington Dialysis
Renal CarePartners of Reston LLC
Total Renal Care - Hopewell
UVA Augusta Dialysis
UVA Page Dialysis
VA Hospital - Richmond
VA Hospital - Salem

Benchmarking is more than just identifying a number for which to strive. You and your facility are encouraged to compare your practices to those of the best. Ask if your facility is making progress fast enough and if it is employing best practices in achieving quality care for patients. In the next edition of *REMARCS*, we will share some of the best practices used by the benchmark facilities to achieve superior AVF rates. We hope these will assist your facility in its quest for performance excellence.

For more information on ABC™ and how you can utilize it in your operations, visit <http://main.uab.edu/show.asp?durki=11311>.