



COUNTY OF VENTURA HEALTH CARE AGENCY		EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES POLICIES AND PROCEDURES	
Policy Title: Use of Pre-existing Vascular Device (PVAD)		Policy Number: 716	
APPROVED: Administration:	 Steven L. Carroll, Paramedic	Date: December 1, 2024	
APPROVED: Medical Director	 Daniel Shepherd, MD	Date: December 1, 2024	
Origination Date:	March 2, 1992	Effective Date:	December 1, 2024
Date Revised:	June 9, 2022		
Last Reviewed:	August 8, 2024		
Review Date:	August 31, 2026		

- I. PURPOSE: To define the use of pre-existing vascular access devices (PVAD) by Paramedics in the prehospital setting.
- II. AUTHORITY: California Health and Safety Code, §1798, §1798.2; §1798.160 and §1798.170, and California Code of Regulations, Title 22, §100091.01 and §100091.02.
- III. POLICY: PVADs may be used in the prehospital setting as set forth by this document.
- IV. Definition: A PVAD is a heparin/saline lock or an indwelling catheter/device placed into a vein, to provide vascular access for those patients requiring long term intravenous therapy or hemodialysis. Internal subcutaneous indwelling devices are not to be accessed by prehospital field personnel.
- V. Procedure: After successful completion of an approved Ventura County training module, a Paramedic may access a PVAD and administer normal saline and medications, for a patient with the following conditions:
  - A. Peripheral Vein Heparin/Saline Lock
    1. Any conditions requiring intravenous fluids and/or medications
  - B. Central line devices with externally visible access ports – PICC, tunneled catheters, or temporary dialysis catheters
    1. Urgent need to administer fluids and/or medications which can only be given by the IV route and a peripheral IV site is not readily/immediately available.
  - C. Hemodialysis Fistula (to be used only in the absence of IO, peripheral, or central IV access):
    1. Urgent need to administer fluids and/or medications which can only be given by the IV route and an alternate IV site is not readily/immediately available. Attempt to aspirate at least 5 ml of blood prior to administering any medications.