



Nursing Service Emergency Department

- Title:** MANAGEMENT OF THE EMERGENCY ROOM (ER) HEMODIALYSIS PATIENT
- Responsibility:** ER RN and Hemodialysis RN
- Equipment:** Handoff communication forms
- Purpose:** The purpose of this procedure is to clearly delineate the responsibilities of staff involved with hemodialysis patients who are in need of treatment immediately following evaluation in the emergency room whether being admitted or discharged.

<u>Procedure</u>	<u>Point of Emphasis</u>
1. ER nursing staff will inform Hemodialysis if an order to dialyze the patient is given. ER nursing staff will care for the patient in the ER according to the Scope of Service Standards currently in place.	Standard for the care of ER patient.
2. ER nursing staff will discharge patient according to standards if patient is not admitted prior to transfer to hemodialysis.	IVs started in ER should be removed prior to the transfer to the Hemodialysis unit. All discharge paperwork should be completed prior to transfer to hemodialysis.
3. ER nursing staff will complete all discharge instructions and education with designated family member or significant other before sending the patient to hemodialysis.	All ER documentation should be completed before patient leaves the ER. If circumstances prevent the forms from being signed, the ER nurse will go to the Hemodialysis unit to obtain the signature and answer any remaining questions the patient or family may have.
4. Report will be given to a Hemodialysis RN by the ER RN caring for the patient.	A verbal report will be given to the Hemodialysis RN caring for the patient.
5. Hemodialysis nursing staff will follow normal procedures already in place for the dialysis treatment.	Refer to Standard of Care and Practice K13, Initiation and Treatment of Dialysis Procedure using Double Lumen Catheter; and K19, Initiation and Termination of Dialysis Procedure using an AV Graft or Fistula.
6. After the hemodialysis treatment, if the patient is discharged, the patient will be released to go home following procedures already in place.	
7. If after the hemodialysis treatment the patient is to be admitted and the assigned room is not available or will not be ready for more than 30 minutes after the Hemodialysis treatment is completed, the patient will be returned to the ER to await room availability.	The Hemodialysis Unit is a treatment center and is not responsible to hold a patient waiting for a bed.
8. The hemodialysis RN will provide report to the charge nurse in the ER prior to the patient returning to the ER.	

Procedure

9. If admission orders are completed while the patient is in hemodialysis for treatment, the hemodialysis staff will call bed placement and notify them of the unit the patient is to be sent to.
10. If a discharged patient is requesting to sign out against medical advice, or if medical conditions change or develop, the person will be returned to the ER for further evaluation.

Point of Emphasis

This notification improves patient satisfaction as the room can be secured more quickly and helps to decompress the ER.

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