

Protocol for patients starting haemodialysis

Patients who are starting haemodialysis for the first time will be presumed to be suitable for an incremental dialysis start; they will be dialysed twice a week until a clinic decision is made that they need to increase to three times a week. Under the following circumstances a patient may start on three times a week dialysis;

- A consultant to consultant request
- Anuric patient
- Difficult fluid balance.

The assumption is that a patient will commence dialysis at a satellite unit, however in the following circumstances a patient may commence at a hub unit.

- A consultant to consultant request
- The need for the vascular access team to be present at initial cannulation
- The lack of a suitable satellite slot in an appropriate timescale.

The following information is required and should be provided in an agreed format before the patient is accepted at the relevant dialysis centre. The required information should be provided by the referring centres pre-dialysis service or dialysis co-ordinators. New patient checklist should be completed electronically with the following information and sent to the satellite dialysis centre.

- Patient demographics, (name, address, telephone number, NHS Number, Patient hospital number, gender, ethnicity)
- Confirm the details are correct on the trust electronic patient record system
- Details of the referring consultant
- Details of Renal diagnosis and other medical history (clinic letter can be used)
- Details of any Allergies and current list of medications
- Details of any isolation requirements and infection status (BBV status, hepatitis B vaccination status MRSA/ Staphylococcus aureus screen, CPE where relevant)
- Signed dialysis prescription detailing, line lock, arterial and venous lock volumes, anticoagulation type and dose medications
- Details re access type (AVF/AVG/CVAD/CVC, if CVAD, long term VA plan)
- Prescription for other medication including ESA and IV iron
- Transport requirements
- Identify any special requirements such as bed/hoist/ risk of falls
- Details on transplant status.

When the new patient arrives at the satellite dialysis centre the following should be done.

- Welcome patient to the unit and introduce to other staff and patients
- Show the patient around the unit (waiting room, toilets etc.)
- Patient is shown where and how to evacuate the building in an emergency
- Patient is given instructions on how to operate the dialysis bed/chair
- Patient is shown how to use nurse call button
- Patient is shown how to operate the TV
- Program patient machine card (for units with this facility)
- Program patient weight card (for units with this facility)
- Explain treatment process
- Support patient with first needling experience
- First week, patient to just have two-three hours dialysis per session, to then increase to 4 hours thereafter.