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**Transition: Critical Care Nurse to Dialysis Nurse in the Intensive Care Unit**

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**Topic:** Dialysis is more than a technical expertise. With the rate of acute kidney injury (AKI) becoming more prevalent in the hospital setting, dialysis is requiring more critical care nursing.

**Approach:** At our hospital we created a training program for the critical care nurse to care for the hemodialysis patients in our intensive care unit and in the dialysis unit. The training was provided by the only full-time dialysis nurse. It was a one-on-one orientation. It was individualized according to the learning requirements of each nurse. The first phase of the training was lecture style format followed by exams and reviews each week. It was non-threatening and the students explored their knowledge in this area. Incorporated in this classroom orientation were tools and resources from the American Nephrology Nurses Association (ANNA) website. Upon completion of the classroom teaching, the critical care nurses were advanced to the clinical setting, training with the dialysis nurse and the dialysis technician at times. These critical care nurses rotate through the dialysis area to maintain their skills and continue to learn about patients with renal failure in the acute care setting. The nurses trained are CCRN and CED certified.

**Conclusion:** The presence of a critical care nurse was embraced by the renal attendings. Knowing that a critical care nurse was providing this technical expertise gave them a sense of security for their unstable patients. Each of the critical care nurses has expressed an interest in obtaining certification as a CDN or a CNN after they have worked in dialysis for at least another year.

**Relevance:** There is no current literature on the transition from critical care nurse to the role of dialysis nurse. With this concept there will be more critical care nurses qualified to care for the nephrology patients as they live longer and present will more serious illnesses. Our hope is that there may be more veteran nurses transitioning from critical care to nephrology.

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