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"It Takes a Village" - Creating a Collaborative Peritoneal Dialysis Program

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The purpose of this abstract is to overview a comprehensive peritoneal dialysis (PD) training program, designed by a pediatric hospital dialysis nursing team, for a medically fragile pediatric patient residing in a skilled nursing facility (SNF). A 3 yr old pediatric patient with multiple complex medical issues since birth, resided in a SNF since approximately 6 months of age. With worsening chronic renal disease, renal replacement therapy instituted. PD was selected as therapy. To limit hospital exposure and multiple times weekly transportation from the SNF, a unique approach was instituted by one pediatric hospital's dialysis team. In collaboration with the SNF education coordinator, dialysis nursing team developed intensive training program inclusive of all regulatory requirements. The program trained SNF nursing staff at a high level to institute PD care for the patient. Along with training, a communication structure was established to optimize dialysis/SNF staff teamwork. A dialysis nurse is on-call to SNF staff 24-hours/day to discuss patient issues. Comprehensive self-learning powerpoint modules for SNF staff review were created by dialysis staff. Annual competency skills fair by dialysis team for SNF staff occurs to validate skill levels. At the monthly multidisciplinary visit the patient's SNF nurse provides updates on physical and developmental status.

There is a greater prevalence of medically-complex patients requiring intensive care in the SNF setting. Our institution has demonstrated success in working collaboratively to develop a training program for PD for SNF nursing staff. Results demonstrate limited patient exposure to hospital acquired infections, decreased hospitalizations, cost effectiveness, and improved quality of life.

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