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Factors Contributing to the Growth of a Peritoneal Dialysis Program

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Background and Purpose: Compared with other peritoneal dialysis programs in our region, our Peritoneal Dialysis program has one of the lowest peritoneal dialysis populations as compared with its hemodialysis population. Approximately 7% of the total dialysis population in our service area is on PD. In September 2009, our service area opened a Peritoneal Dialysis program; the program currently has 45 PD patients and is still growing. USRDS statistics reveal PD growth at a rate of 8% per year. Our service area experienced 325% growth in the same time frame. Over a two year period, we prospectively examined the factors to our Peritoneal Dialysis program's success.

Method: The Peritoneal Dialysis program analyzed several variables that impacted program growth in an effort to maximize the program's potential. The following areas were seen as an integral part of the program's success.

- Effective Pre Dialysis Education and Counseling
- Peritoneal Dialysis Access Placement
- Comprehensive Infrastructure and Support System
- Knowledgeable and Competent Clinicians
- Patient Training and follow up
- Innovative and Best Demonstrated Practices
- Commitment to Excellent Service and Quality Outcomes

To ensure continued attention to the growth and quality outcomes, the variables listed above became part of an ongoing quality initiative. Monthly team meetings are scheduled where opportunities for improvement were discussed. The table below highlights the key factors and several interventions undertaken to ensure continued growth.

Success Variable	Interventions
Effective Pre Dialysis Education and Counseling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Renal Case Manager ensure CKD patients receive detailed information on dialysis treatment options • 1:1 Peritoneal Dialysis Information offered by the Peritoneal Dialysis Department for Pre CKD patients. • Timely initiation of Renal Replacement Therapy
Peritoneal Dialysis Access Placement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experienced Advanced Laparoscopic surgeons • Dedicated OR time

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proper coordination of PD catheter placement • Buried catheter • Active involvement of the PD Nurses on access placement.
Comprehensive Infrastructure and Support System	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staffed to support growth • Organized PD program • Leadership support
Knowledgeable and Competent Clinicians	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nephrologists support for program continued education • Experienced Peritoneal Dialysis Nurses, RD and LCSW • In services and Continuing Education
Patient Training and follow up practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comprehensive Initial CAPD and APD training • Internalized patients were also trained • Monthly Education and periodic retraining practices • Home visits • Primary Nursing Assignment • Monthly Peritoneal Dialysis Group visit • One stop shop for patients • Standardized patient workflows
Innovative and Best Demonstrated Practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Travel Program • After Hour Program and Access • Patient Support Group • Collaboration with other departments
Commitment to Excellent Service and Quality Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patient Satisfaction Surveys • Monthly CQI Team Meetings • Caring Theory • Routine reporting to hospital's Performance Improvement and Infection Control Committee

Results: Understanding the key variables will enable Peritoneal Dialysis programs to grow and achieve excellent patient outcomes.

Conclusion: An experience and focused team along with continued dedication towards best practices, quality excellent care and innovative programs will help resolve growth challenges facing Peritoneal Dialysis program.

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