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Peritoneal Dialysis Course 101 for the Hospital Nursing Staff

*Nida Quirong-Jones, RN, CNN,
Renee Johnson, RN, CNN
Einstein Medical Center – Philadelphia
Philadelphia, PA*

Peritoneal dialysis (PD) for hospitalized patient is outsourced by most hospitals due to lack of knowledge by nursing staff to perform the PD. The procedure can be difficult to the nursing staff who are not trained to perform the therapy. At our institution, the home dialysis program is hospital-based and has a dedicated renal floor where patients can receive PD during their hospitalization.

The PD Course 101 was implemented several years ago as part of the requirement for newly hired nurses for the renal floor. In collaboration with the nurse educator and the home dialysis nurse, the class is held 2-3 times per year. The 3 hour class consist of the following: basic renal functions; stages of chronic kidney disease (CKD); end stage renal disease (ESRD) and treatment options; principles and types of PD; troubleshooting and demonstration of PD procedures. At the completion of the course, the attendee is required to perform a successful return demonstration of the continuous ambulatory peritoneal dialysis (CAPD) exchange procedure and passed the written competency exam. After successful demonstration, each attendee receives a PD certificate of completion and 3.0 continuing nursing education (CNE) contact hours.

Since the implementation of the PD course, 85-95% of the renal floor nursing staff are trained to do PD. The hospitalized PD patients are less anxious knowing that the nurses are competent in performing the CAPD therapy. No episodes of hospital acquired peritonitis have been noted since the implementation of PD 101 course.

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