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Hepatitis B Vaccination Initiative for all Dialysis Patients in Acute Care Setting

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Problem: Hepatitis B remains a major health problem in the United States, as an estimated 1.4 million people with chronic Hepatitis B virus (HBV) are undiagnosed. Dialysis patients are at a greater risk of contracting HBV than the general population due to their immunocompromised state and risk of nosocomial transmission. The Centers for Disease Control recommends hepatitis B vaccination for all people with end-stage renal disease, including pre-dialysis (GFR categories G4-G5), hemodialysis, peritoneal dialysis, and home dialysis patients.

Methods: We performed a quality improvement project involving a retrospective chart review of hospitalized patients receiving kidney replacement therapy at our Academic medical center, over eleven months.

Results: 575 charts were reviewed which revealed that a hepatitis panel was checked during this period. Of those, 491 patients were on hemodialysis (HD), 24 were on peritoneal dialysis (PD), and 60 were on continuous renal replacement therapy (CRRT). 82% of patients had known ESRD, and 18% of patients were being treated for acute kidney injury. 45% were anti-HBs positive (Anti-HBs), 3% had borderline levels of anti-HBs and 52% were anti-HBs negative.

Conclusion: The data revealed we are identifying anti-HBs negative patients in 100% of the dialysis patients we treat, however, we are not initiating the vaccination process during their hospitalization. Therefore, our next step is to ensure a complete vaccination record at the time of the initial treatment, as well as at the time of discharge. This will be accomplished by obtaining a comprehensive vaccination history, collaborating with the nephrology and/or primary medical team to educate and hardwire the process of initiating the hepatitis B immunization process, administration of the vaccination prior to discharge, communication with the patients home dialysis unit and/or primary care provider advising them of the immunization received, and to provide the patient with a standardized vaccination card.

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