

2020 ANNA NATIONAL SYMPOSIUM
APRIL 19-22 ~ CARIBE ROYALE, ORLANDO, FL

Say NO to Transmission: Only You Can Protect You

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Purpose: The purpose of this quality initiative is to prevent and reduce contamination related transmission of microorganisms relative to healthcare associated-infection in the in-centre hemodialysis (ICHD) patient population.

Description: Hemodialysis patients are susceptible to infectious diseases due to their reduced immunity and risk of exposure to microorganisms (Park et al 2018). Contact transmission is the main route of microorganism transmission among the ICHD population. Therefore, it is imperative to protect patients and staff from potential contamination. An initial audit of the cleaning and disinfecting processes of ICHD machines and stations by nurses and hemodialysis assistants was completed with permission using the BC Renal - Dialysis Station Routine Disinfection Checklist. Practice gaps were identified with routine cleaning and disinfecting of dialysis machines and stations. A new hemodialysis Policy alongside a “Dialysis Station Cleaning and Disinfecting Checklist” (DSCDC) was developed for staff following the audit using feedback from the health care team. The Policy and DSCDC highlight the use of personal protective equipment, hand hygiene, isolation strategies, and the cleaning and disinfection of hemodialysis machines and stations. Staff education will be provided on the new process. Post education, a 3 and 6-month trial of the new Policy and DSCDC will be implemented in anticipation of reducing contamination related transmission of microorganisms among ICHD patients, and gain feedback.

Outcomes: To reduce contamination related transmission of microorganisms among ICHD patients as it pertains to healthcare associated-infection by means of staff education on the correct technique of cleaning and disinfecting hemodialysis machines and stations. Evaluation will encompass ongoing DSCDC audits.

Implications for Nephrology Practice: To develop provincial guidelines on Cleaning and Disinfecting Dialysis Stations for Ontario ICHD programs.

References

BC Renal Agency. (2016). *Checklist: Dialysis station routine disinfection.*

<http://www.bcrenalagency.ca/resource-gallery/Documents/Staff%20Teaching%20Sheet-Checklist%20for%20Dialysis%20Station%20Routine%20Disinfection.pdf>

Park, H.C., Lee, Y., Yoo, K.D., Jeon, H.J., Kim, S.J., Cho, A., Lee, J., Kim, Y., Lee, S., & Lee, S. (2018). Korean clinical practice guidelines for preventing the transmission of infections in hemodialysis facilities. *Kidney Research and Clinical Practice*, 37(1), 8-19

Abstract selected for presentation at 2020 ANNA National Symposium, Orlando, FL