Kidney Replacement Support in COVID-19

Acute Kidney Injury

Early reports are showing an incidence of AKI of 3-9% in those with COVID-19 infection.

Hemodialysis outside of hospital based hemodialysis units (off unit – ED, ICU, CCU, IMCU or hospital ward) are only available in Yarmouth, Sydney and Halifax (VG and HI).

- **Acute HD in Eastern Zone to Sydney**
- **Acute HD in Central and Northern Zone to Halifax**
- **Acute HD in Western Zone to Yarmouth**

Chronic Hemodialysis Patients that are COVID-19 Presumptive

Depending on presentation, could hold hemodialysis for a day pending swab results.

If unable to hold treatment for one day, obtain swab and provide treatment in usual unit using droplet contact precautions.

**If COVID-19 Positive and does NOT require Admission:**

All attempts will be made to keep patients in usual unit (not possible in Berwick, Springhill, Pictou, Port Hawkesbury due to inadequate physical space).

Dialysis treatments will be provided in the following locations for at least 10 days:

- **Northern and Central Zones**: Halifax Infirmary dialysis unit.
- **Eastern Zone**: Cape Breton Regional Hospital dialysis unit.
- **Western Zone**: Yarmouth Regional dialysis unit.

Re-swab at 10 days – if negative, remove from isolation. If still positive, swab every 4 days until negative. Once negative, patient can then come off isolation and return to usual dialysis location.
If COVID-19 Positive and Requires Admission:
If medically stable, dialysis treatment will be provided at the following locations:

**Northern and Central Zones:** COVID unit 8.3 at Halifax Infirmary Hospital. Rooms 34, 38, 41, 57.

**Eastern Zone:** COVID unit 4D Cape Brenton Regional Hospital.

**Western Zone** – Dialysis unit Yarmouth Regional Hospital in isolation rooms.

**If medical condition unstable or critical:**

**Eastern Zone** – COVID ICU at Cape Brenton Regional Hospital.

**Northern and Central Zones** – 5.2 MSICU Halifax Infirmary.

**Western Zone** – ICU Yarmouth Regional Hospital.

Treatment Plan: Considerations for COVID-19 (Presumptive or Positive)

- Triage patient care as required and organize in appropriate care setting.
- Implement treatment changes that might be necessary in consultation with Medical Director:
  - Decreasing from three to two treatments per week for appropriate patients
  - Expanding to night time treatment for dialysis in Yarmouth, Halifax or Sydney dialysis units.
- Adapt service provision based on level of staff absenteeism and care requirements for dialysis patients.
- Implement plan to accommodate new or additional patients in suitable environments based on care needs.
- As situation changes, expand plan to treat COVID-19 positive patients.
- Follow infection control guidelines for management of dialysis patients as conditions change.
- Cohort infected/uninfected patients separately wherever possible on the dialysis units.
- Send Patients and Families information regarding possible treatment changes/scheduling and relocation if needed.

Renal program manager contacts: Northern/Central Zone: Angela Shorter 902 233 9779

Western Zone: Kelly Ross 902 740 0867

Eastern Zone: Shannon Sidney 902 574 0419
Effective March 25, 2020
Nova Scotia Health Authority Renal Program

POSSIBLE CHANGES TO YOUR HEMODIALYSIS SCHEDULE

Dear Hemodialysis Patient,

Thank you for understanding that these are difficult times during COVID-19. We are trying to be sure that you receive the best and safest care possible, and that all patients in the unit receive the best and safest care possible.

Because the situation is changing, we may be making changes to your dialysis schedule as the pandemic evolves.

Your Nephrologist and care team would make these changes based on knowing your medical condition and situation, and would believe at the time, to be the safest for you. These changes would be reassessed regularly based on your care needs.

Some changes to your care may include and only be implemented if necessary:

1. We may shorten your dialysis time.
2. We may have you come in less often than usual.
3. We may have you come in at a different time.
4. Your dialysis may be moved to another facility.

Thank you for understanding. We appreciate your co-operation. We will contact you directly if any changes occur.

Your Hemodialysis Team.