

Wilcox Medical Center

HPH Guidelines for Inpatient Dialysis and Transfer for Dialysis Services

Effective February 27, 2017

Inpatient dialysis services are available on a limited basis to patients admitted to Wilcox Medical Center (WMC). The reasons for limitation are multifactorial, with contributions of availability of contracted dialysis nurses, hemodialysis equipment and credentialed nephrologist coverage.

The following guidelines are designed to provide guidance to practicing clinicians regarding the availability of inpatient dialysis services, and regarding the transfer of patients for dialysis services. These guidelines are not intended to supersede the medical judgment of the attending provider.

1. Dialysis availability
 - a. Inpatient hemodialysis is available during usual business hours Monday through Friday, including most weekday holidays (no dialysis available on Thanksgiving, Christmas Day or New Year's Day)
 - b. Same day hemodialysis can be performed if nephrologist orders are submitted by 2pm (1pm on Fridays)
 - c. Emergent dialysis for life threatening conditions (hyperkalemia, fluid overload, drug intoxication, extreme symptomatic uremia or acidosis) is only available during the hours prescribed above and dependent upon numerous factors, including patient stability, pre-existing vascular access and staff comfort in managing the patient's conditions and comorbidities. *Consultation with a nephrologist prior to admission is strongly suggested*
 - d. Inpatient peritoneal dialysis is currently not available
 - e. Continuous renal replacement therapy (CRRT) is currently not available
 - f. If a patient presenting for care to WMC requires dialysis services that are currently unavailable, the patient should be transferred to another facility capable of providing the required services
2. Attending nephrologist credentialing and availability
 - a. Any nephrologist credentialed for hemodialysis privileges can order inpatient hemodialysis at WMH
 - b. At present inpatient hemodialysis privileges are limited to nephrologists only
 - c. When no credentialed nephrologist is available, inpatient hemodialysis is not available
3. Role of the nephrologist
 - a. The role of the attending nephrologist is to provide consultation for and treatment of acute and chronic conditions affecting the renal system, including those requiring dialysis services, when available
 - b. Questions or concerns regarding the availability of dialysis services should be directed to the Chief Nurse Executive or Chief Executive Officer