

Medical Review of un-well patient on haemodialysis

If a patient becomes unwell in dialysis the Medical registrar (MOIC) is required to review the patient, make an assessment and in conjunction with the nephrologist on call make a plan.

If that plan includes admission then ideally an appropriate bed should be requested and the patient be transferred directly to that bed – avoiding transfer to ED. Initial medical intervention such as labs, blood cultures and the administration of antibiotics can all occur while the patient is on 4W.

If there is no possibility of a bed within a reasonable time period or the patient is unstable requiring care beyond the scope of the dialysis unit then, again in consultation with the nephrologist, the patient may warrant transfer to ED for monitoring and nursing care.

Transfer to ED is not for assessment and review by ED staff. If ongoing medical review within ED is required then that can be provided by the medical registrar in ED (AMR) and/or other necessary services such as surgery if that is the suspected pathology.

No patient should be transferred directly to ED for review without having been seen and assessed by the MOIC and the nephrologist consulted.

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