Fluid assessment by haemodialysis RNs

**Bottom line**

- A fluid assessment performed by haemodialysis RNs is an important skill in the dialysis preparation phase.
- The haemodialysis RN is deemed competent in fluid assessment once they have successfully completed the fluid assessment learning package and competency.
- Communication regarding dry weight change and indications will continue via the letter to the nephrologist in RISC.
- The patient’s dry weight will continue to be reviewed by the medical team as a usual component of the clinic visit.

**The Exclusion criteria for this protocol include:**

- Patients in acute kidney injury
- Patients in which there will be a change in weight greater than one litre for the dialysis session.

In the above circumstances the medical staff are responsible for fluid assessment.

**Accreditation of RNs involves the following:**

1. Intensive education regarding accurate dry weight assessment
2. The mandatory completion of a fluid assessment learning package
3. The successful completion of the fluid assessment competency

**The process of RNs performing the role involves:**

1. Intensive fluid assessment training;
2. Identification of key resource personnel;
3. Accreditation;
4. Documentation in RISC and the clinical notes;
5. Implementation of a week per month where routine assessment of the patient is undertaken by the primary nurse. Assessment will occur at other times if indicated;
6. Regular evaluation of the process and outcomes.

**References:**


Renal Department 2012