

RENAL DEPARTMENT, HAEMODIALYSIS ON CALL POLICY

This policy is to be implemented for On-call haemodialysis throughout St George Hospital. ICU & CICU has access to central RO water and therefore uses the IVY water filter (1 carbon tank). All other areas require the Henry filter (2 carbon tanks) for dialysis to safely occur via cold tap water.

The mechanism for calling in the *on call haemodialysis RN* is as follows:

- Step 1. The Consultant / Senior Renal Registrar must inform the **RN in charge of 4WRD or the After Hours Senior Nurse Manager**, regarding the need for acute dialysis.
- Step 2. The **RN in charge** is responsible for organising staff to attend to the dialysis session either during the shift or as overtime. **Every effort to dialyse the patient within working hours is the priority.**
An overtime record is to be kept and shared amongst the staff. A maximum of 2 hours overtime will occur before calling the on-call nurse to complete the dialysis.
N.B. 2 Staff are required to dialyse on 4 west (usually the In charge and a staff member rostered on an afternoon the next day) If an acute patient commences dialysis on 4west after 2000 call the on-call nurse
- Step 3. If it is not feasible to dialyse the patient using the staff on duty the *on call haemodialysis RN* is to be contacted. **This should not be done until the following has been attended:**
- 3.1 Consult the Renal Registrar -
 - Does the patient have vascular access?
 - Dialysis can be performed on any ward (providing the patient is stable) using the appropriate RO unit.
 - If they have had a jugular or subclavian vascath inserted has the chest X-ray been done and has it been reviewed?
 - What are the orders for the dialysis session?
 - Duration of dialysis
 - Fluid off
 - Heparin
 - Blood results
 - 3.2 Contact the area/Unit to ascertain whether the patient is ready for dialysis and check that they are not scheduled for any urgent tests or investigations, which might delay the dialysis.
 - 3.3 Contact the After Hours Senior Nurse Manager to advise them that an urgent dialysis is required and that they will be calling in the *on call haemodialysis RN*.
 - 3.4 Arrange for the orderly to take the machine to the area required.
 - 3.5 Telephone the *on call haemodialysis RN* or page 842 or 384.

St George Hospital Renal Department Instructions: INTERNAL ONLY

The responsibilities of the *on call haemodialysis RN*

- The *on call haemodialysis RN* commences overtime when they arrive at the hospital.
- The *on call haemodialysis RN* must contact the After Hours Senior Nurse Manager when they arrive at the hospital and when they are leaving.
- The *on call haemodialysis RN* must leave a message for the NUM 4 West indicating the amount of overtime hours worked and the reason so that this information can be entered into KRONOS and acute dialysis records can be kept.
- The on call nurse is required to check water quality (see nursing procedure) prior to commencing any outlying dialysis.