

# COVID-19

An End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) National Coordinating Center (NCC)  
Professional Education Webinar

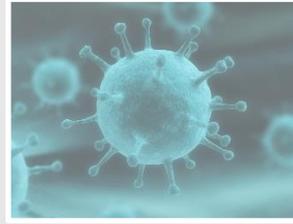


October 14, 2020

COVID-19 = Coronavirus Disease 2019

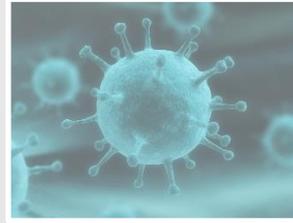


# Agenda



- What is this call about?
- Today's speaker:
  - Mary Gruel, RN, CDN  
Education Coordinator, Tri-State Dialysis, Dubuque, Iowa
  - Topic: Managing the COVID-19 Pandemic in the Outpatient Dialysis Facility
- Questions and answers (Q&As) from chat and Q&A panels

# What Is This Call About?



- Hear from stakeholders and peers in the ESRD community who are adapting to COVID-19.
- Share examples and provide real-world strategies for facilities to use.
- Engage in bi-monthly calls on varying topics.

# MANAGING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC IN THE OUTPATIENT DIALYSIS SETTING

MARY GRUEL RN, CDN  
EDUCATION COORDINATOR

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DUBUQUE, IOWA 52001

# OBJECTIVES

- Describe and outline strategies of managing patients and staff during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Identify and present policy updates that were necessary to implement to accommodate the care of the hemodialysis patient during the COVID-19 Pandemic.
- Identify steps in place and an action plan when a patient presents with fever or positive symptoms for COVID-19.

# GRAND RIVER MEDICAL GROUP

- Tri-State Dialysis is a free-standing facility.
- 3 outpatient units; with a 4th opening 2021.
- Main facility is in Dubuque, Iowa.
- 32 outpatient facility—Dubuque.
- In-center and home therapies-home hemodialysis (HHD) and continuous ambulatory peritoneal dialysis (CAPD).
- Hospital acute and chronic therapies.
- Nursing Home staff HHD.

Late 2019

COVID-19 detected in Wuhan, China

# Late February 2020

- 1st United States death from COVID-19 in the state of Washington.
- Received step-by-step education of the plan of action conducted at their dialysis facility.
- This PANDEMIC became REAL.

# Preparation

- Attended Delaware County Public Health Pandemic Discussion to gain education of the virus, its actions, and prevention in early March 2020.
- Read all related information from the CDC, CMS, NRAA, ASN, NKF, and Network 12.

# Staff Education:

- Continuous updates of COVID-19 virus, signs, symptoms, mode of transmission, proper use of personal protective equipment (PPE) and latest CDC safety measures.
- Day to day basis; shared new updated information as it became available.
- Emergency Sunday meeting to reassure and discuss plan of action. Update staff emergency contact phone numbers.
- Staff to consider back-up childcare in the event of school or daycare closures.

# Patient and Family Education

- Signage placed at entrance and in waiting room to educate public. NO VISITORS ALLOWED.
- Newsletters and bulletin board updated on plan of action to prevent the spread of COVID-19. PPE and frequent hand hygiene.
- Mandated surgical face mask to be worn at all times upon entering the dialysis facility.
- To call dialysis facility if signs and symptoms of COVID and/or fever (99.2). Notify physicians and they will triage plan of action. Screening and isolation; treatment time changes to allow staffing.

# Leaderships Actions

- Track emergency expenses to request FEMA grant.
- Watch as many webinars on education of COVID-19.
- Join the Long-Term Care Dubuque County group to gain knowledge of how our nursing home patients are receiving care.
- Keep updated on Dubuque hospitals; Mercy One and Unity Point Finley protocols for hospitalized dialysis patient care.
- Stay updated as to CDC, Network 12, and CMS recommendations and requirements.
- Update the Network, per mandate, of patient and staff of COVID-19 status. Person under investigation, positive, negatives, deaths, and recovered.
- NO VISITING PATIENTS ALLOWED DURING PANDEMIC; UNLESS EMERGENCY SITUATION.

# Update and New Policies

- Update to Infection Control Policy.
- Create Pandemic Infectious Disease—COVID-19 Policy for implemented actions.
- Educate and share cardiac arrest/code management in a COVID-19 patient. (Don PPE prior to entering room or starting code, code cart outside of room, do not use ambu bag, intubate, defibrillation, and medication delivery.)

# Other Actions

Implement and maintain safety and PPE to protect patients and staff. Inform per newsletter and email to all nursing home facilities:

1. Hand hygiene
2. Environmental cleaning
3. No visitors
4. Social distancing
5. Need to call dialysis facility if fever (99.2) or COVID-19 symptoms arise.

# COVID-19 Questions Prior to Entering a Facility: If Yes to Items Below, Contact the Physician and Send to Respiratory Clinic for Screening

- Temp more than 99.2
- Cough or sore throat
- Shortness of breath
- Exposure to anyone with possible COVID-19
- Exposure to anyone with diagnosed COVID-19
- New muscle aches
- Chills
- Nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea

# Environmental Cleaning

- Rid waiting room of newspapers, magazines, and puzzles.
- Implemented every 2-hour cleaning of high-touch areas throughout the unit and waiting room.
- Increased bleach solution from 1% to 2 % bleach and updated the labels.
- Use of disinfectant wipes with 70% or greater alcohol.
- Staff eating of meals must be greater than 6 feet apart.
- No eating. Disabled water fountain and removed coffee pots.

# Additional Actions

- Patients to wear surgical face mask upon entering and leaving the facility. New surgical face mask provided every week and PRN. If the patient refused, the patient would be asked to leave; and we would notify the doctor.
- Mandated staff to wear N95 face mask, face shield, and hair covering as directed by physicians. Wash shield and hair coverings with bleach after use.
- No nebulizer treatments or testing for COVID-19 in unit. If tested in restroom, the door must be shut and the room to be kept empty for 2 hours, with signage on the door.

# Additional Actions (cont.)

- Machines/patients to be greater than 6 feet apart. Also 6 feet of red tape marking to be placed throughout entrance into the unit from the waiting room and hallway.
- Plexiglass hung between chairs.
- No meetings with greater than 8 people. Utilized phone conferences and Zoom meetings.
- Essential worker letter to prepare for shelter-in-place order in state.
- Cancel all non-essential travel.
- Medical director contacted city bus to assure patient transportation. COVID-positive patients would be transported by non-emergency ambulance service. Nursing home patients are seated only with patients from their facility in the bus.

# Staff Screening

- Temperature at start and end of day; with “yes” or “no” to COVID questions. Signed by self and cosigned by other staff who witness temperature reading.
- Maintain all record keeping of staff screening.
- Staff with direct exposure or symptoms of COVID-19 are screened for COVID-19.
- If negative for COVID-19, off 10 days, with additional negative result prior to returning to work.
- If positive for COVID-19, off 10 days, BUT will need 2 consecutive negative screens prior to returning to work. Average length of time off for positive staff: 4 weeks.

# Ensure Proper Isolation for Suspected and Confirmed COVID-19 Patients

- Grand River Medical Group created Respiratory Clinic. Educated staff on how to utilize. Off-site clinic.
- Nephrologist set algorithm of who goes to emergency room, respiratory clinic, or stays in dialysis unit separated from patients.
- Suspected COVID-19 patients (person under investigation).
- Discuss code status with positive patient. Update Kardex's. Social worker to contact nursing home to assure same code status.

# Create COVID-19 Treatment Room That Is Isolated From Other Patients

- Designed 2 isolation areas within the unit to allow for complete isolation of COVID-19-positive patient.
- Unity Point Hospital allowed use of vacant radiology rooms to convert to a COVID-19 room; legal documentation completed.
- If using the COVID-19 Room, we ensure we leave an empty station in the unit to stay compliant of 32-station facility rules.
- Assure all hospital patient rooms are equipped with water hook ups for potential use for isolation dialysis treatments.

# Care of the COVID-19 Suspected or Confirmed-Positive Patient

- Isolate from other patients. Positives go to the COVID-19 room off site for 2 weeks. Retest after 2 weeks; need 2 negatives to remove from isolation.
- Suspected or exposed may isolate at the end of the room in dialysis unit. If test is negative, the physician will determine if there is a need to continue in the isolation area until the 2nd test is negative at the end of 2 weeks.
- Physicians determine action by type of exposure.

# Supply Management

- Assess need for supplies: N95 masks, surgical masks, isolation gowns, face shields, shoe covers, hand sanitizer, and disinfecting wipes per each of the 3 facilities. Order extra supplies from vendors and make frequent contact with vendors.
- Contact and keep updated with Dubuque and Grant County Emergency Management Departments. Request to be on the list of facilities needing help with PPE supplies.
- Save empty hand sanitizer bottles for refills of locally manufactured hand sanitizers from distilleries/companies.

# Institute CDC Guidance for Extended Use and Limited Reuse of Masks, Use of Expired Hand Sanitizer, Bleach and Disinfecting Wipes

- Hospital dialysis staff instructed to bring outdated open bleach and disinfecting wipes to dialysis unit for use.
- Save masks from pre-made central line catheter kits for later use.
- Wear the same mask all day.
- Give patients a new surgical mask once a week.
- Continually contact other companies that make hand sanitizer and purchase what is the correct concentration, if available.

# CMS COVID-19-Focused Infection Control Survey

- Conducted on site at Tri-State Dialysis—Dubuque Unit on August 10–11, 2020.
- Compliant with Federal requirements related to proper infection prevention and control practices to prevent development and transmission of COVID-19.
- No DEFICIENCIES were cited.

# COVID-19 Positive Status

## 7 COVID-19 positive patients (census of 136)

1. 2/7—deaths due to COVID-19
2. 5/7—recovered from COVID-19
3. 2 positive COVID-19 patients as of 10/2/20
4. 5 persons under investigation (nursing home residents that were exposed to an employee at the same facility)
5. No new acute ESKD patients started from COVID-19 at this time.

## 2 COVID-19 positive staff members (census 52)

1. 2/2—recovered from COVID-19

# Influenza Season

- High-dose Influenza vaccinations given to all patients; week of 9/21/20.
- Employee flu vaccine clinics started 9/28/20.
- Continuing to monitor patients for COVID-19 symptoms and temperatures prior to entering the dialysis facility.
- Eventually will include Influenza testing with COVID-19 testing when physicians feel the need to be initiated.

# Arrival of Our MAX/AIR<sup>®</sup> CAPR<sup>®</sup>

- Ordered in March and arrived September 20th!
- To wear when caring for Positive COVID-19 patients.
- Fitted and educated on use for nursing staff who would be caring for COVID-19 patients in the COVID-19 room.

# Infection Control Audits

Continue monthly assignment of 1 patient care technician and 1 nurse to complete the auditing of staff performing the following:

1. Proper glove change and hand hygiene between dirty and clean tasks, as indicated.
2. Patients to perform hand hygiene prior to touching the scale and prior to leaving the dialysis station.
3. Gloves worn when touching the machine, tubing, and/or patient.
4. Stripped-used tubing is placed in red biological waste bucket that is no further than 3 feet away.

# Additional Audits

- Staff wearing both face shield and N95 mask.
- Audit of daily staff temperature logs.
- Patients wearing surgical face masks properly.
- Isolation PPE properly conducted.

# Questions

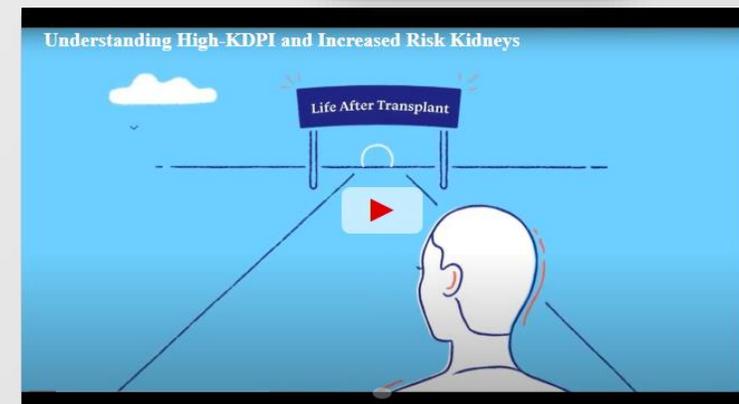
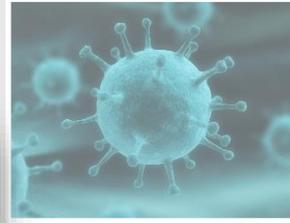
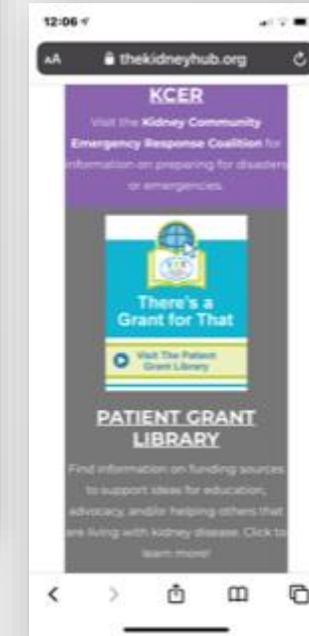
# Let Us Hear From You

Q&As from chat and Q&A panels

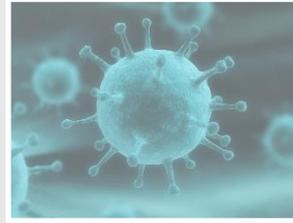


# TheKidneyHub.org

- Secure, mobile-friendly web tool for patients and professionals.
- Developed by the ESRD NCC with assistance from patient subject matter experts.
- Links to important resources, such as:
  - COVID-19, infection prevention, transplant, home dialysis, and new ESRD patient education.
  - **New** features include access to the **Patient Grant Library**, an informative **Understanding High-KDPI and Increased Risk Kidneys** video, and more.
- Visit today and bookmark to your device's home screen.



# Our Next COVID-19 Webinar Events



- Save the dates for our next events.
  - Patient-focused event:  
October 22, 2020, at 4 p.m. ET
  - Provider-focused event:  
October 28, 2020, at 3 p.m. ET
- Visit [www.kidneyCOVIDinfocenter.com](http://www.kidneyCOVIDinfocenter.com) for information and to register.



# Thank You!

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844.472.4250

813.865.3545

[www.esrdncc.org](http://www.esrdncc.org)

Additional COVID-19 resources for patients and providers:



<https://www.kcercoalition.com/en/covid-19/>



[www.kidneyCOVIDinfocenter.com](http://www.kidneyCOVIDinfocenter.com)

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