

**PURPOSE:** To establish guidelines for a standard operating procedure for the treatment of patients identified with the need for emergent dialysis. This process will be 24hours/day, 7 days a week.

**SCOPE:** This policy applies to all patients entering the UAB Hospital (Main Campus) through the Emergency Department (UED).

**POLICY:**

- A. Patient Inclusion Criteria: to be determined on a case-by-case basis
  - a. Hyperkalemia >6.5
  - b. Hyperkalemia with EKG changes
  - c. Pulmonary edema requiring BiPap
  - d. Uncontrolled hypertension requiring IV drips
  - e. Other clinical indications as deemed necessary, including intoxications or severe metabolic acidosis.
- B. Exclusion Criteria:
  - a. Routine dialysis patients presenting to the UED
  - b. Dialysis patients not meeting criteria above
- C. Goal: To begin all dialysis sessions within 90 minutes of initial call to Nephrology
  - a. Exceptions: Need for new access, ICU bed not available in time
- D. UED Evaluation and medical management:
  - a. Initial patient assessment:
    - i. Complete vital sign assessment
    - ii. EKG
    - iii. Serum studies including chemistry and VBG
    - iv. Chest radiograph (CXR)
    - v. Determine dialysis access type and/or need for placement.
  - b. Medical management and respiratory support.
- E. Identification of patient meeting criteria: INITIATE CODE DIALYSIS
  - a. Notification of Nephrology & ICU Teams, IDU Nurse, ED ANM/Shift Leader, NRC
  - b. Dialysis access reassessment.
  - c. Determine location for needed dialysis (ED Bed #31, IDU, ICU)
- F. Nephrology and ICU Teams to assess patient status, medical management, and respiratory support to aid in determining the appropriate location, type of dialysis and disposition of patient.
  - a. ED admit bed request (Center for Patient Flow)
- G. ED ANM/Shift Leader to assess bed availability and facilitate appropriate transfer/transport to designated location (UED#31, ICU, IDU)
  - a. If an ICU bed is needed, escalate to NRC
- H. ED Nurse:
  - a. Notify dialysis nurse of patient status (pager #1966)
  - b. If patient remaining in the ED, give hand-off report to dialysis nurse
  - c. If patient being transported, call report to IDU or ICU nurse
  - d. Transport patient to IDU or ICU
- I. IDU Nurse:
  - a. Prepare and set up dialysis equipment
  - b. Respond to appropriate location (ED, IDU, ICU)
  - c. Initiate dialysis treatment within established timeframe
- J. Any issues should be escalated to the Nephrology Fellow