



Staying Safe in the Hemodialysis Clinic

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Dialysis Clinic, Inc.

A Non-Profit Corporation

Keeping Patients Safe –Your Dialysis Team

- Each clinic has a management team lead by a Medical Director, who is a board certified dialysis trained physician, called the Governing Body. This team typically includes the Administrator and Nurse Manager.
 - It is the responsibility of the governing body to adopt and enforce rules and policies to allow for safe and effective care.
 - The Dialysis facilities are in close contact with The State Department of Public Health and Local Emergency Managers.

Keeping Patients Safe – What you see.

- Some changes you may notice include:
 - Reducing or closing the clinics to visitors.
 - Calling patients before they come in to the clinic to ask screening questions.
 - Additional Screening of patients before they come into the waiting room or dialysis clinic area.
 - Reducing the number of patients in the waiting rooms, and moving chairs to provide 6 feet between patients.
 - Having patients who may have had an exposure enter through a different door, or come directly into the clinic area.
 - More patient education and flyers in the clinic on how to stay safe.

Keeping Patients Safe – What you see

- Patients who are more susceptible may be dialyzed in an area separate from other patients.
- Staff may change their personal protective gear more frequently to protect these patients.
- Patients who may have had an exposure or show any symptoms may also be dialyzed in a separate area and staff will change their personal protective gear more frequently.

Keeping Patients Safe – What you see

- Patients who have tested positive for COVID19 will be dialyzed in an area away from other patients, or potentially in a different facility altogether.
- Patients may need to adjust their appointment time, chair or facility in order to keep everyone safe.
- Your physician or provider may use telehealth to discuss your care instead of an in-person visit.

Keeping Patients Safe – What you may not see

- Facilities have increased the frequency of disinfection of high touch areas in the clinics, including the waiting room.
- Housekeeping vendors were brought in and provided education and physically walked through the facilities to assure compliance.
- Staff and physicians have their temperature and oxygen levels checked whenever they come into the clinic.
- Staff are practicing social distancing in break room and meeting areas, wearing masks.

Keeping Patients Safe – What you may not see

- Where possible staff who can work from home spend less time in the clinic.
- Clinics are working with supply chain vendors to make sure critical supplies are on hand, and may increase the amount of supplies to provide a buffer.
- Staff are asked not to report to work if ill, and clinics have adopted Non-penalizing Health Care Provider sick leave policies.
- There has been changes in Infection control audits to more specifically focus on COVID19.