



Technical Bulletin

Division of Public and Behavioral Health



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Topic: CDC Health Advisory: Hepatitis C Virus Transmission in Patients Undergoing Hemodialysis

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To: Facility for Treatment of Irreversible Renal Disease

Current Situation

Per an advisory released by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), an increased number of reports of newly acquired hepatitis C virus (HCV) infection among patients undergoing hemodialysis have been received. Infection control lapses in dialysis care could expose patients to HCV. Any case of new HCV infection in a patient undergoing hemodialysis should prompt immediate action. Dialysis facilities should actively assess and continuously improve their infection control, environmental cleaning and disinfection, and HCV screening practices, whether or not they are aware of infections in their clinic. Any case of new HCV infection in a patient undergoing hemodialysis is likely to be a healthcare-associated infection and should be reported to public health authorities in a timely manner. HCV transmission can be prevented when proper infection prevention and environmental disinfection practices are consistently followed.

Recommendations

- Evaluate infection control practices in each facility and ensure adherence to infection control standards.
- If gaps are identified, promptly address any issues to protect patients' health and safety
- Take action to improve injection safety, hand hygiene, and routine environmental disinfection procedures, as appropriate.
- Ensure staff are aware of and trained to implement infection control guidelines for hemodialysis settings.
- Follow CDC recommendations for HCV screening of hemodialysis patients and management of patients who test positive.
- Immediately report any case of new HCV infection among patients undergoing hemodialysis to the state or local health department.
- Inform patients if HCV transmission is suspected to have occurred within the facility, and explain steps being taken to address the problem.

Please use the below links to obtain further information on dialysis safety.

Dialysis Safety: <http://www.cdc.gov/dialysis/>

Injection Safety: <http://www.cdc.gov/injectionsafety/>

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