

Dialysis protocol for COVID-19 patients

Three situations of patients who require dialysis

- Patients already on maintenance dialysis
- Patients requiring dialysis due to acute kidney injury (AKI) and
- Patients critically ill requiring continuous renal replacement therapy (CRRT).

Guidelines for Haemodialysis

- Patient to screening area is suspected nasal swab for COVID-19.
- Wait for the result.
- If positive, all protection and protocol for any COVID patient should be followed and the patient should be dialysed on a dedicated machine.

General Guidance for Dialysis Unit

- Dedicated dialysis machines for COVID-19.
- Trained staff
- Ensure full personal protection, sanitization and environmental disinfection.
- All universal precautions must be strictly followed.
- Area should have doffing and donning with separate entry and exit for doctors and patients.

Patients inside Dialysis Unit

- Suspected or positive COVID-19 patients should properly wear disposable three-layer surgical mask throughout dialysis duration.
- Patients should wash hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, using proper method of hand washing. If soap and water are not readily available, a hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol can be used.
- Patients should follow cough etiquettes, like coughing or sneezing using the inside of the elbow or using tissue paper.
- Patients should throw used tissues in the trash. The unit should ensure the availability of plastic lined trash cans appropriately labeled for disposing of used tissues. The trash cans should be foot operated ideally to prevent hand contact with infective material.

For Dialysis Staff

- Full protection with PPEs and N95 masks.
- Each dialysis chair/bed should have disposable tissues and waste disposal bins to ensure adherence to hand and respiratory hygiene, and cough etiquette and appropriate alcohol-based hand sanitizer within reach of patients and staff.
- Ideally all patients with suspected or positive COVID-19 be dialyzed in isolation. If not enough, then distance between two patients should be more than 2m
- Separating equipments like stethoscopes, thermometers, Oxygen saturation probes and blood pressure cuffs between patients with appropriate cleaning and disinfection should be done in between shifts.

Disinfection

- Disinfection of machines, bedsheets, beds and surrounding equipment should be done after each dialysis.
- All disposables, tubes, catheters should be disposed.

Dialysis Patient with Acute Kidney Injury (AKI)

- In case of acute renal disease, if it is an emergency, bed side dialysis can be done following all standard precautions.
- Disinfection and sanitization of all machines and equipment must be performed as per standard protocol.