

Dialysis Units Infection Control / Prevention Information

The following information outlines the precautions that should be taken to help us to minimise the risk of you getting an infection whilst you are a dialysis patient. Your co-operation is greatly appreciated.

All haemodialysis patients

- You will have swabs taken for MRSA when you start dialysis and then every six months or as required. This is standard procedure.
- You will have blood samples taken to check for blood borne viruses when you start dialysis and at regular intervals after that. This is a Department of Health recommendation.
- You should use Octenisan[®] bodywash before each dialysis session as directed by your nurse. This will be given to you at the Renal Unit to use at home before you come for dialysis.
- You should clean your hands with alcohol gel or soap and water each time you enter or leave the unit.
- You should telephone the Unit **before** attending for your dialysis session if you have had any diarrhoea or vomiting. In this instance it may be necessary to dialyse you in a side room for your privacy and to prevent the spread of any infection.
- It is recommended that you have your flu jab at your GP surgery each winter when available.

Dialysis patients with a fistula/graft

- You should wash your fistula/graft arm with soap and water immediately before sitting down for dialysis. If you are unable to do this, please ask a nurse to help you.
- If you “clot off” your needle sites you should wear a disposable glove to do so and wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water afterwards.

Dialysis patients with a neck line

- You should have prescribed ointment applied to the line exit site each dialysis by the dialysis nurse.

- If you are able, you should apply the prescribed ointment to each nostril with gloved fingers each dialysis session. Please ask your nurse if you need help with this. The ointment is to help prevent you catching MRSA.

- You should try to look after your line following the information leaflet that you should have been given when the line was put in. Your nurse can provide a leaflet if you do not have one.

What you can expect of the staff

All staff on the Renal Unit whether they be regular staff such as nurses or visiting staff such as caterers, doctors, volunteers etc should;

- Clean their hands every time they enter or leave the Unit / dialysis room.
- Wear clean apron and gloves when they are performing any tasks that may involve blood or body fluids.
- Change aprons and gloves between each patient.
- Clean their hands every time they remove gloves.
- Thoroughly clean the bed area between each patient including television, blood pressure cuff and nurse call bell.

The staff would like you to feel that you can politely challenge if you are concerned that these infection prevention measures have not been taken. Alternatively please ask to speak to the Sister/Staff Nurse in charge of your room or either of the contacts below if you have any queries, concerns or require any further information.

- Heather Moss, Senior Sister for the Jack Pryor Unit.
01603 288296

- Janet Dickenson, Senior Sister for Cromer Dialysis Unit.
01603 646160

