

Staying True to your Dialysis Prescription

What does that mean?

DIALYSIS PRESCRIPTION

- ▶ The Nephrologist is responsible for the order. Needs your accurate observations.
- ▶ The RN Charge Nurse is responsible for coordination of patient care & meds.
- ▶ The Patient Care Tech is responsible for carrying out dialysis *as ordered*.
- ▶ Equipment Tech maintains all machines.
- ▶ Communication is essential to keep the care appropriate. Observe & Report.

The Dialysis Prescription

- ▶ Treatment with the Goal of Making the Patient Comfortable and Functional with Risks Minimized. An Umbrella Statement.
- ▶ Successful Dialysis is a Discipline, for Patient and for Clinical Staff. Teamwork!
- ▶ And we have to do that while being financially prudent and cautious, so we survive as a service.

-The Dialysis Prescription - Obstacles

- ▶ Patients often want convenience, not quality. They must control volume & PO4.
- ▶ Nephrologists can misjudge dry weight, BP control, rush past without listening, omit or forget orders, fail to review outcomes.
- ▶ Staff inattention to detail. Stay focused.
- ▶ Staff can lack knowledge & understanding: It's all right not to know, but it's not all right not to ask.

The Dialysis Prescription-Elements

- ▶ Time
- ▶ Dialyzer
- ▶ Blood Flow – Access & needles
- ▶ Dialysate Flow – as Blood Flow permits.
- ▶ Heparin Dose
- ▶ UF to Dry Weight
- ▶ Medications before and during dialysis
- ▶ Monitoring and safe takeoff.

The Dialysis Prescription

- ▶ Requires Patient Assessment. You know them well, so changes are clear to you.
- ▶ Requires Monitoring. Respond to changes.
- ▶ Requires a Coordinated Clinical Team.
- ▶ Requires Communication with Patient, with the Team, with the Doctor.
- ▶ Needs a pleasant setting, good lighting, comfortable seating, patient distractions.

The Dialysis Prescription

- ▶ All these points show the details that must be understood and observed.
- ▶ We are fortunate that modern dialysis machines are stable & reliable, do much of what was formerly added steps for staff:
 - UF control
 - BP monitoring & recording
 - Timing treatment, not the clock
 - But it Doesn't WATCH THE ACCESS.

The Dialysis Prescription

- ▶ Can't happen without good water.
- ▶ Can't happen without disinfection.
- ▶ Can't happen without clear, complete records
- ▶ Can't happen without well trained, effective clinical staff with a sense of team.
- ▶ Needs good leadership from Nurse Manager and Nephrologist.