

Synopsis

TITLE – "Enhancing Infection Control Practices in the Dialysis Day-care Unit: A Comprehensive Assessment at Fortis Escorts Hospital, Amritsar"

PROBLEM STATEMENT -

The dialysis department of hospitals faces a critical challenge in maintaining effective infection control practices, exacerbated by the persistent issue of healthcare-associated infections (HAIs) and from the reuse of dialyzers. Despite stringent protocols and guidelines aimed at preventing infections and the practice of reusing dialyzers poses a significant risk to patient safety and contributes to the transmission of pathogens. HAIs, including bloodstream infections and access site infections, remain a prevalent concern, compromising patient health outcomes and increasing healthcare costs. Thus, there is an urgent need to address the dual challenge of inadequate infection control practices and the associated risks of dialyzer reuse within the dialysis department to safeguard patient well-being and ensure the delivery of high-quality care.

RESEARCH QUESTION – What are the existing infection control protocols and practices in dialysis department at the Fortis Escorts Hospital, Amritsar and how can they be improved to minimize the risk of infection transmission among patients, healthcare workers and visitors

OBJECTIVES -

- 1) To assess the infection control measures to minimize the transmission of infections among the patients, healthcare workers and visitors in the dialysis department.
- 2) To evaluate the compliance to established SOPs for the reuse of dialyzer in the dialysis department
- 3) To assess the level of satisfaction among patients receiving care in the dialysis department and identify areas for improvement in service delivery and patient experience.

STUDY DESIGN - This is a descriptive, cross-sectional study aiming to provide a snapshot of the current state of infection control measures and dialyzer reuse practices

SAMPLING TECHNIQUE – Convenience sampling technique will be used to select the participants for the study

STUDY SETTING – The study is conducted in the dialysis daycare department of the Fortis Escorts Hospital, Amritsar which is a 173 bedded hospital.

DURATION OF STUDY – 3 months from 26th March' 2024 – 26th June' 2024

INCLUSION CRITERIA -

- 1) Patients of all age and genders will be included.
- 2) Patients undergoing any type of dialysis treatment including intermittent hemodialysis (IHD), Hemodiafiltration (HDF), Slow efficiency dialysis (SLED) will be eligible.
- 3) All healthcare workers who are directly involved in providing dialysis care within the department. This includes consulting nephrologists, nurses and technicians.

EXCLUSION CRITERIA -

- 1) The IPD patients
- 2) All the patients who have been tested positive for hepatitis B, hepatitis C and HIV and are in isolation room for the dialysis in the dialysis daycare.
- 3) Patients who are put on clinical research will be excluded

DATA COLLECTION TOOLS AND TECHNIQUES -

The study will involve a mixed method approach combining both qualitative and quantitative research methods to comprehensively assess the infection control measures and dialyzer reuse practice

Observational study will be conducted to assess the current infection control measures including hand hygiene, disinfection protocols etc. Document Review of existing protocols, policies and documentation related to infection control and dialyzer reuse to evaluate adherence to established protocols The data will be collected through open-ended and close-ended questions with a rating method (rating scale: 1 being worst and 5 being best) to know the patient satisfaction rate.

ETHICAL

CONSIDERATION

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- Informed consent will be obtained from all participants before data collection.
- Participant anonymity and confidentiality will be ensured throughout the study
- Data will be securely stored and accessed only by authorized researchers.
- The study will adhere to ethical guidelines set forth by institutional review boards and regulatory authorities.