

Standard Number:	3.7
Effective Date:	Nov. 17, 2009

Driving After A Hemodialysis Treatment

Qualified to Use: Hemodialysis Registered Nurses

Guideline (G)

Indications	<p>A patient care plan will be developed for patients who require medication that may impair their ability to drive. The nephrologists will assess medications ordered to try and decrease amount given to patient and/or adjust the time of administration</p> <p>A letter will be sent to any patient who is identified by either the staff or nephrologists as a driving risk and in need of a patient care plan.</p> <p>All outpatients discharged from a VIHA hemodialysis facility (See Guideline 3.6 Discharge Criteria from Hemodialysis Unit following Treatment) and who will be driving a vehicle will be in stable condition and are subject to meeting the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patient is not experiencing symptomatic postural hypotension • Patient has not experienced a change in their level of orientation as compared to predialysis • Patient who has received any medication that can result in an impairment to drive. For these people a sufficient time must pass before discharge (See Guideline 3.7A Medications that may Impair Cognition) • When the nurse feels that the patient does not meet the above criteria, the following procedure is followed:
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A. Guidelines/Steps	Key Points
1. Second nurse is requested to give input on status of patient.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two nurses to determine patient status
2. If second nurse confirms that the post dialysis status is uncertain, then the patient is advised not to leave the unit	
3. Alternate travel options are arranged for the patient	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Taxi • Pick up by friend or family member
4. Notify nephrologist	
5. If the patient insists on leaving and security is available, then security is notified of the concern.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Security will attempt to stop the patient from driving • Security will notify police if patient

A. Guidelines/Steps	Key Points
	leaves the parking lot
6. Patient is advised at this time that the police will be notified of the inappropriateness of driving	
7. If the person drives the police are notified of the inappropriateness to drive and the license number/make of the car	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When security is unavailable and if possible, 2 staff members will accompany the patient to the parking lot to obtain information. • Alternatively, staff will try to obtain information by another means or at another time and document on patient chart
8. Document and complete incident reporting form. Referral to social work for follow up.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure incident is documented in chart and appropriate forms are completed • Social Work is made aware of situation for follow up.

Related Policies/Standards:	<p>Guideline 3.6 Discharge Criteria from Hemodialysis Unit Following Treatment</p> <p>Guideline 3.7A: Medications That May Impair Cognition. Prepared by Dan Martinusen, BSc Pharm., ACPR, PharmD. November 2008</p>
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References: Criminal Code: Part VIII, Section 253: Motor Vehicles, Vessels and Aircraft: Operation While Impaired. Department of Justice. Canada. Current to May 20, 2009