PRECAUTIONS FOR COVID-19 IN DIALYSIS UNIT

1. Triage at the entrance of dialysis unit- preferably outside the premises (active surveillance for fever with non-touch Thermometer, Cough, Shortness of breath).

2. Minimize the number of attendants accompanying each patient (only 1 attendant for each patient & restrict their entry into the dialysis unit)

3. Patients with suspected or confirmed COVID 19, preferably dialyzed in a separate area earmarked for COVID 19- with droplet isolation precautions

4. If specific area could not be assigned, then such patients should be cohorted and dialyzed as the last batch after completion of dialysis for clean cases.

5. A minimum of 3 feet (preferably 6 feet) between patients should be ensured.

6. Patients with respiratory symptoms should be given a mask and advised on use of mask.

7. The dialysis technician /staff at triage should be wearing appropriate PPE while handling suspected/confirmed cases of COVID 19(Cap, gown, surgical mask, gloves, goggles or shield). For regular patient interaction, face mask is mandatory for all staff.

8. Donning and doffing measures are to be followed strictly.

9. Hand hygiene moments to be followed strictly as per guidelines.

10. Disinfection of high touch areas should be carried out atleast three times daily.
11. Surface cleaning is recommended after each patient. For suspected/confirmed COVID patients, one hour aeration after cleaning may be appropriate.

12. Decontamination with sodium hypochlorite is recommended (10g of household bleach in 1 l of water / 1 l of Medi-chlor with 9 l of water - may be used for 24 hrs after which it should be discarded and fresh solution should be prepared).

13. Handling of Linen should be one sanitary worker with appropriate PPE (mask, cap, gown, gloves), tossing of linen should be avoided; they should be soaked in sodium hypochlorite and processed in Laundry.

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