



Practice Briefs

Do I need to wear gloves when touching the dialysis machine during treatment?

Yes

Equipment used in dialysis should be considered contaminated, and therefore, gloves should be used when accessing the equipment. You can find this guidance in the CDC document, Recommendations for Preventing Transmission of Infections Among Chronic Hemodialysis Patients (pg. 19).

During the process of hemodialysis, exposure to blood and potentially contaminated items can be routinely anticipated; thus, gloves are required whenever caring for a patient or touching the patient's equipment. To facilitate glove use, a supply of clean non-sterile gloves and a glove discard container should be placed near each dialysis station.¹

You can access this guidance at this link <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/PDF/rr/rr5005.pdf>.

Another source of this information is the APIC Guide to the Elimination of Infections in Hemodialysis, 2010 (pg 29).

Glove use is an integral aspect of hand hygiene. Gloves must be worn in HD facilities whenever caring for a patient or touching the patient's medical equipment, handling lab specimens or used dialyzers, cleaning machines, cleaning stations, and wiping up blood or other body fluid spills. They must be changed whenever moving from one patient or machine to another. Gloves must be changed after cannulation. Clean disposable gloves are provided for this type of routine use.²

You can find this document here

http://www.apic.org/Resource/_EliminationGuideForm/7966d850-0c5a-48ae-9090-a1da00bcf988/File/APIC-Hemodialysis.pdf.

References:

1. Recommendations for Preventing Transmission of Infections Among Chronic Hemodialysis Patients, MMWR, April 27, 2001, Vol. 50, No. RR-5.
2. APIC Guide to the Elimination of Infections in Hemodialysis, 2010. Retrieved from: https://apic.org/Resource/_EliminationGuideForm/7966d850-0c5a-48ae-9090-a1da00bcf988/File/APIC-Hemodialysis.pdf (Accessed 11.20.17)

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