



Practice Briefs

How should our dialysis center handle patients who are colonized or infected with resistant organisms?

CDC does not routinely recommend Contact Precautions for multidrug resistant organisms (MDROs) in dialysis clinics. However, in certain circumstances (e.g., known or suspected MDRO transmission) contact Precautions may be necessary for patients who might be at increased risk for transmitting pathogenic bacteria. Such patients include those with:

- an infected skin wound with drainage that is not contained by dressings (the drainage does not have to be culture positive for VRE, MRSA, or any specific pathogen)
- fecal incontinence or uncontrolled diarrhea with personal hygiene issues

For these patients, consider using the following additional precautions:

- staff members treating the patient should wear a separate gown over their usual clothing and remove the gown when finished caring for the patient
- dialyze the patient at a station with as few adjacent stations as possible (e.g., at the end or corner of the unit). Note: These additional measures would be taken if the patient was considered at high risk for transmission in order to prevent transmission.

For further information see:

An APIC Guide: Guide to the Elimination of Infections in Hemodialysis 2010

http://www.apic.org/Resource/_EliminationGuideForm/7966d850-0c5a-48ae-9090-a1da00bcf988/File/APIC-Hemodialysis.pdf¹

References:

1. 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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