



## The Florida ESRD Network

### *Preventing Antimicrobial Resistance in Dialysis Patients - An Educational Series*

This information, obtained from CDC, is the **second** of four educational series targeted to raise awareness about the escalating problem of antimicrobial resistance in healthcare settings and high-risk patients.

Infections are the second most common cause of mortality in ESRD patients, accounting for 15% of deaths. Centers for Disease Control (CDC) reports that vascular access infections (in hemodialysis patients) and peritonitis (in peritoneal dialysis patients) are the most common infections.

According to CDC, Key Prevention Strategies to Prevent Antimicrobial Resistance among Dialysis Patients are:

- ❖ Prevent Infection
- ❖ Diagnoses & Treat Effectively
- ❖ Use Antimicrobials Wisely
- ❖ Prevent Transmission.

#### **Diagnose & Treat Effectively:**

- ❑ **Step 1. Target the Pathogen – *Fact: Identifying the pathogen using microbiologic cultures and antimicrobial susceptibility testing allows for targeted antimicrobial therapy.***
  - ✓ Obtain appropriate cultures
  - ✓ Target empiric therapy to likely pathogens
  - ✓ Target definitive therapy to known pathogens
  - ✓ Optimize timing, regimen, dose, route, and duration
- ❑ **Step 2. Access the Experts – *Fact: Input from infectious diseases experts improves the outcome of serious infections.***
  - ✓ Consult the appropriate expert for complicated infections
    - ❖ Infectious Disease Specialists / Infection Control Professionals
    - ❖ Clinical Pharmacologists
    - ❖ Surgical Infection Experts
    - ❖ Clinical Microbiologists / Clinical Pharmacists
    - ❖ Healthcare Epidemiologists

CDC Resource: [http://www.cdc.gov/drugresistance/healthcare/dialysis/12steps\\_dialysis.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/drugresistance/healthcare/dialysis/12steps_dialysis.htm)

The Florida ESRD Network (Network 7) is providing this fax blast as a technical assistance activity for the Florida renal community.

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