



The Florida ESRD Network

Preventing Antimicrobial Resistance in Dialysis Patients - An Educational Series

This information, obtained from CDC, is the **third** 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.

Use Antimicrobials Wisely

- ❑ **Step 1. Use Local data – *Fact: The prevalence of resistance varies by locale.***
 - ✓ Know your local antibiogram (result of a laboratory testing for sensitivity of an isolated bacterial strain to different antibiotics)
 - ✓ Get previous microbiology results when patients transfer to your facility
- ❑ **Step 2. Know when to say “no” to vanco – *Fact: Reduction of vancomycin use is one of the most important strategies to limit the emergence, selection, and spread of vancomycin resistant bacteria.***
 - ✓ Follow CDC guidelines for vancomycin use
 - ✓ Consider 1st generation cephalosporins instead of vancomycin
- ❑ **Step 3. Treat infection, not contamination or colonization – *Fact: A major cause of antimicrobial overuse is treatment of contamination or colonization.***
 - ✓ Use proper antisepsis for drawing blood cultures
 - ✓ Get one peripheral vein blood culture, if possible
 - ✓ Avoid culturing vascular catheters tips
 - ✓ Treat bacteremia, not the catheter tip
- ❑ **Step 4. Stop Antimicrobial Treatment – *Fact: Stopping empiric therapy when cultures are negative can significantly reduce antimicrobial use.***
 - ✓ Stop when infection is treated
 - ✓ Stop when clinical and laboratory data rule out infection

CDC Resource: 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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