



## The Florida ESRD Network

### *Vinegar Use in Hemodialysis General Housekeeping Guidelines*

Vinegar is frequently used in dialysis centers to prevent bicarb precipitate in the dialysis machine. The following are some general guidelines in the use and storage of vinegar.

- 1) Inspect the vinegar prior to use – check for slimy or gooey substances in the liquid.
- 2) Check if the vinegar has a bad smell – a bad odor is a sign that the vinegar is no longer useable and should be discarded.
- 3) Ensure wands are thoroughly cleaned and decontaminated after each use to remove potential bacterial growth.
- 4) Do not pour leftover amounts of vinegar into a common container – discard the leftover portions.
- 5) Keep vinegar containers tightly closed between uses to prevent excessive bacterial growth.
- 6) Do not have multiple open containers of vinegar. Only open what is needed for the day.
- 7) Use Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) when using vinegar.
- 8) Never store bleach and vinegar in the same area. Mixing of the two forms chlorine gas.

Review your facility's policy and procedures for vinegar use and storage.

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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