**Guideline for Practical Hygiene in Dialysis Units: New Book**

Authors: German workgroup for infection control in Dialysis

A multidisciplinary workgroup in Germany has published two editions of "Guideline for Practical Hygiene in Dialysis Units" in 1998 and 2005. The latest edition has been translated into English and was launched during the EDTNA/ERCA Hamburg Conference 2009.

The workgroup was founded in 1993, starting with simple but unanswered questions on hygiene of dialysis machines and daily practice. The deficit of binding statements from manufacturers and distributors dealing with the questions of hygiene during the use of medical devices and a lack of practically orientated descriptions of measures for operators, managers and users in the existing guidelines, regulations and laws guided the process.

Due to the developments in Europe, a changed engineering process and alterations in current and future legislation, it makes sense to look at hygienic processes in the second edition under the view points of an already process-orientated quality management system. The goals are to be predetermined according to the requirements, and measures to respect the limit values shall be described. They can be requested by examining bodies and have to be corrected using adequate measures in case of infringements as well as deviations.

The cross-reference to quality management as the basis of hygiene management and the scientific claims of the group requires that the requests mentioned are supported by valid literature citations. As a result, the working group carried out extensive literature research during the revision of this edition.

Over the years, the workgroup included approx. 35 organisations and 50 co-workers. Both big German dialysis providing not for profit organisations, as well as doctors, nurses, hygienists, microbiologists, laboratories, producers of dialysis equipment, producers of water systems for dialysis, virologists, producers of disinfectants and nephrologists have participated.

The "Guideline" is covering all aspects of hygiene in dialysis. Since dialysis as such is a universal procedure, the issues of hygiene will be similar regardless of geographical area all over the world.

Feedback from workgroup members has been very positive about the gain of knowledge during the course of excellent and productive collaboration and the implementation of results in practice.

The workgroup wish to spread the knowledge, experience and information contained in the "guideline for hygiene in dialysis units“ to use this reference book as much as possible.

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Excellent book: 191 pages - Price is only 15 Euro. Copies can be ordered at the EDTNA/ERCA-office: queries@edtnaerca.org or from www.pabst-publishers.de