

NURSING CARE COORDINATORS AT DIALYSIS CENTERS

Lenka Muziková | B. Braun Avitum | Prague - Na Homolce Hospital | Czech Republic

INTRODUCTION

Health-related quality of life (HRQOL) is a very important management aspect in haemodialysis patients. Dialysis patients need to receive adequate dialysis treatment, medical guidance, and support from multidisciplinary team. An important member of the medical team is the dialysis nurse, because he/she is in close contact with the patient and can influence the patient's attitude and adherence to treatment.

OBJECTIVE

To introduce a system of comprehensive nursing care that allows for the maintenance of the existing quality of life for the dialysis patient. Our centre aims to achieve professionalism, safety and high quality healthcare for our patients.

METHODS

All nurses and auxiliary health care workers are continuously trained of medical equipment to provide the best possible care to the patient in a safe environment and with the use of instrumentation serviced by qualified personnel while minimizing all possible risks. Successful patient care and the maintenance of the existing quality of life require collaboration between physicians and nurses – coordinators who seek to achieve maximum patient compliance and adherence.

STRATEGY OF THE SYSTEM OF COORDINATORS AT DIALYSIS CENTRES

VASCULAR ACCESS NURSE:

To ensure quality treatment for patients with renal failure, it is necessary to ensure and in particular maintain a sufficiently functional quality vascular access. That is why we have a trained nurse at our centre to care for vascular accesses sites. This nurse has the opportunity to educate him/herself regularly through trainings for vascular access coordinators and at symposiums organized by the Czech Vascular Access Society. New experience is shared with the nurses at the dialysis centre. For each patient, this nurse individually suggests a cannulation technique, monitors the UZ AVF (arteriovenous fistula) in each patient and adequately responds to the results. In collaboration with a vascular specialist, the nurse organizes and plans interventions for AVF.

NUTRITION COORDINATOR NURSE:

The dietary regimen contributes significantly to how the patient feels, and compliance with a diet can reduce the risk of developing a number of complications associated with dialysis treatment. Therefore, education in this area needs to be regular and intensive not only for the patient, but also focusing on the family members of the patient. A specialized experienced nurse (Nutrition Coordinator) is appointed at our centre, who specializes in patient education in collaboration with the hospital nutrition therapist. The nurse monitors the nutritional development of the individual patient during the dialysis treatment from the start, on a monthly basis monitors the results of sample collections and the levels of phosphates. He/she leads the so-called phosphate league. Patients who fail to achieve satisfactory results are repeatedly educated about various diets and phosphate binders. Together with physicians and doctors and other coordinators of our centre, he/she participates in the organization of "Open House" for our patients and their family members.

HYGIENE COORDINATOR NURSE:

He/she works with the head nurse and the head physician on the development of the hygienic and disinfection schedule at the dialysis centre. He/she monitors compliance with hygienic and disinfection rules by individual employees. He/she deals with the organization of anti-epidemic measures in the event of a serious infection at the dialysis centre (MRSA, hepatitis, HIV) and keeps records on the occurrence of these diseases. He/she keeps records and plans the vaccinations

of the dialysis patients. He/she is also educated in the field of the disinfection and hygiene of operations at the dialysis centre. An integral part is the training of staff on a dialysis unit in the area of infection prevention and control (IPC)

SOCIAL COORDINATOR NURSE:

In cooperation with the primary nurses, he/she performs individual counselling in the area of social care for renal patients. The contents of the counselling include all necessary information about statutory standards and public authorities with competencies in the area of social assistance, and non-government organizations that provide social services. The aim is to provide patients with sufficient information to enable their free choice of the form of social assistance. He/she actively contributes to changes in the social environment in order to develop the patient's self-esteem, autonomy and social interaction, identifies, corrects and solves social problems, empowers the patient's ability to make decisions about his/her own life and tries to prevent the emergence, exacerbation and recurrence of social problems.

QUALITY COORDINATOR NURSE:

She is responsible for promoting and monitoring in the field regarding the quality management management and environmental management system at the dialysis centre in accordance with ISO 9001, ISO 14001 and IEC/TR 62653. The nurse controls the keeping of the quality management system and environmental management documentation. Evaluates client requirements, defines client satisfaction criteria. Ensures the implementation of corrective actions ensuing from audits and monitors their effectiveness. He/she participates in the training of dialysis centre employees in the field of quality management and environmental management systems. He/she cooperates during internal and external audits. He/she is involved in the creation of the quality policy and quality objectives at the dialysis centre.

RESULTS

After implementing the system of coordinators in cooperation with other nursing staff, we have eliminated the risk of infection of vascular access at our centre. We have prevented the spread of infections through the screening, prevention and management of blood pathogens (BBV). The collaboration with the nutrition coordinator ensured adequate levels of phosphate in the blood in the long run. Our main objective is to achieve a high level of care for the health of our patients, and that is what we have succeeded in.

CONCLUSION

With the cooperation of the entire multi-disciplinary team, it is possible to achieve satisfactory outcomes and maximum patient adherence. Coordinator nurses help the patients better adapt to dialysis treatment and at the same time they can monitor the quality of the comprehensive dialysis care. When the patients are appropriately informed, they have a better chance at preserving their existing quality of life. The priorities of each dialysis centre should not only involve the proper adjustment of treatment parameters, but especially satisfied patients.

Source: B. Braun Avitum s.r.o. IMS Avitum SBU – CZ/SK

