

Essential Steps to Keep Patients Safe From COVID-19 in Haemodialysis Units



Patients are at risk from other patients, staff and home contacts

Strong, supportive leadership



Clear communication



PATIENT AND STAFF EDUCATION

Symptom reporting
Local practices to stay safe
Importance of compliance



VACCINATION

Encourage vaccination
Discuss vaccine hesitancy
Answer questions/ concerns



SYMPTOMS-INFORM HD UNIT

Symptomatic patients dialyse in isolation or cohorted
PCR test ASAP



PATIENTS WEAR MASKS

During travel, waiting and dialysis
Try not to touch face mask



ISOLATE / COHORT 10 DAYS

Symptomatic or COVID positive
Immunosuppressed need negative test before de-isolation



HAND HYGIENE (wash / gel)

On entry and exit from HD unit
Before and after snacks
Before and after touching mask



MAXIMISE SOCIAL DISTANCING

During travel
In waiting areas
Between dialysis chairs



OPTIMISE CLEANING

All shared equipment
Dialysis chair, all surfaces
Communal areas, toilets



MAXIMISE FRESH AIR

Increase intake of fresh air
Open windows at changeover
Keep windows open if possible



LOCAL RISK ASSESSMENT

Audit practice and compliance
Identify areas for improvement



COVID-19 TESTING

Patients – regular asymptomatic screening PCR tests
Staff – regular asymptomatic screening as per local policy



RECOGNISE COVID OUTBREAKS

2 linked people within 10 days
Test all staff & patients
Report to local IPC team
Perform root cause analysis