

MEMO

To: BC Nephrologists
Renal Program Managers
Renal Directors & Program leads

From: Dr. Gerry Karr, Chair, BCPRA Medical Advisory Committee

CC: Dr. Adeera Levin, Director, BCPRA

Date: 4/28/2006

Re: MAC policy recommendation: Medical coverage for Home and CDU dialysis patients

Background:

MAC has discussed some care issues arising from Community Dialysis Units relating to the frequency of medical review and also the need for clear and prominent identification of the responsible nephrologist for each patient. Considerable variation in the frequency of review exists between units and nephrologists, which is not lost on patients or staff, some of whom have expressed concern. While the appropriate frequency for medical review will vary between patients, MAC agreed that the recommendation of a minimum frequency is both reasonable and appropriate. MAC also agreed that patient safety requires that the name of the responsible nephrologist be clearly identified for each patient. While prompted by questions arising from CDUs, these policies would apply equally to patients in all community and home dialysis programs. At its June 17, 2005 meeting, MAC adopted this policy statement:

Medical Coverage For Patients Dialyzing in Community and Home Dialysis Programs

1. The nephrologist responsible for the care of each patient must be prominently displayed in the unit and on the patient's chart. Nurses must know exactly who to call in an emergency situation.
2. A responsible nephrologist or delegate must be available to take calls from the unit regarding **non-emergent** matters.
3. Each patient should be reviewed every 3 to 6 months by the responsible nephrologist or delegate, either in the unit or in a clinic setting, with complete documentation, copied to the patient's family physician.

Adopted by MAC June 17, 2005