

Dialyzing Wisely - Care Pathway



ADULT ICU PATHWAY

January 2025

Purpose

The Dialyzing Wisely pathway is for clinicians in intensive care units (ICUs) to improve the delivery of acute dialysis to critically ill adult patients in Alberta.

Monitor & Screen for Acute Kidney Injury (AKI)

- 1 Trend serum creatinine and urine output
- 2 Determine staging
- 3 Report results on daily rounds

Renal Replacement Therapy (RRT) Initiation

Excludes chronic dialysis and overdose.

Consider RRT for one or more of these potentially life-threatening complications of stage 2 or 3 AKI, but only if refractory to medical management.

Metabolic Acidosis ➤ pH of 7.20 or less **OR** serum bicarbonate of 12 mmol/L or less

Hyperkalemia ➤ K⁺ of 6.0 mmol/L or greater

Impaired Oxygenation ➤ P/F ratio of 200 or less and clinical perception of fluid overload (cumulative fluid balance > 10% from ICU admission)

Pharmacological Challenge ➤ Furosemide stress test \geq 1mg/kg within 24 hours with perception of inadequate clinical response

Acute Liver Failure ➤ Ammonia 150 μ mol/L or greater

Accelerated Starts Showed:

- No reduction in mortality
- 74% increase in long-term dialysis
- Higher occurrence of adverse events

[References & Resources](#)



Dialyzing Wisely is a care pathway, not an order set. Clinicians using this care pathway should, in consultation with the patient and family, use independent medical judgement in the context of individual clinical circumstances to direct care.



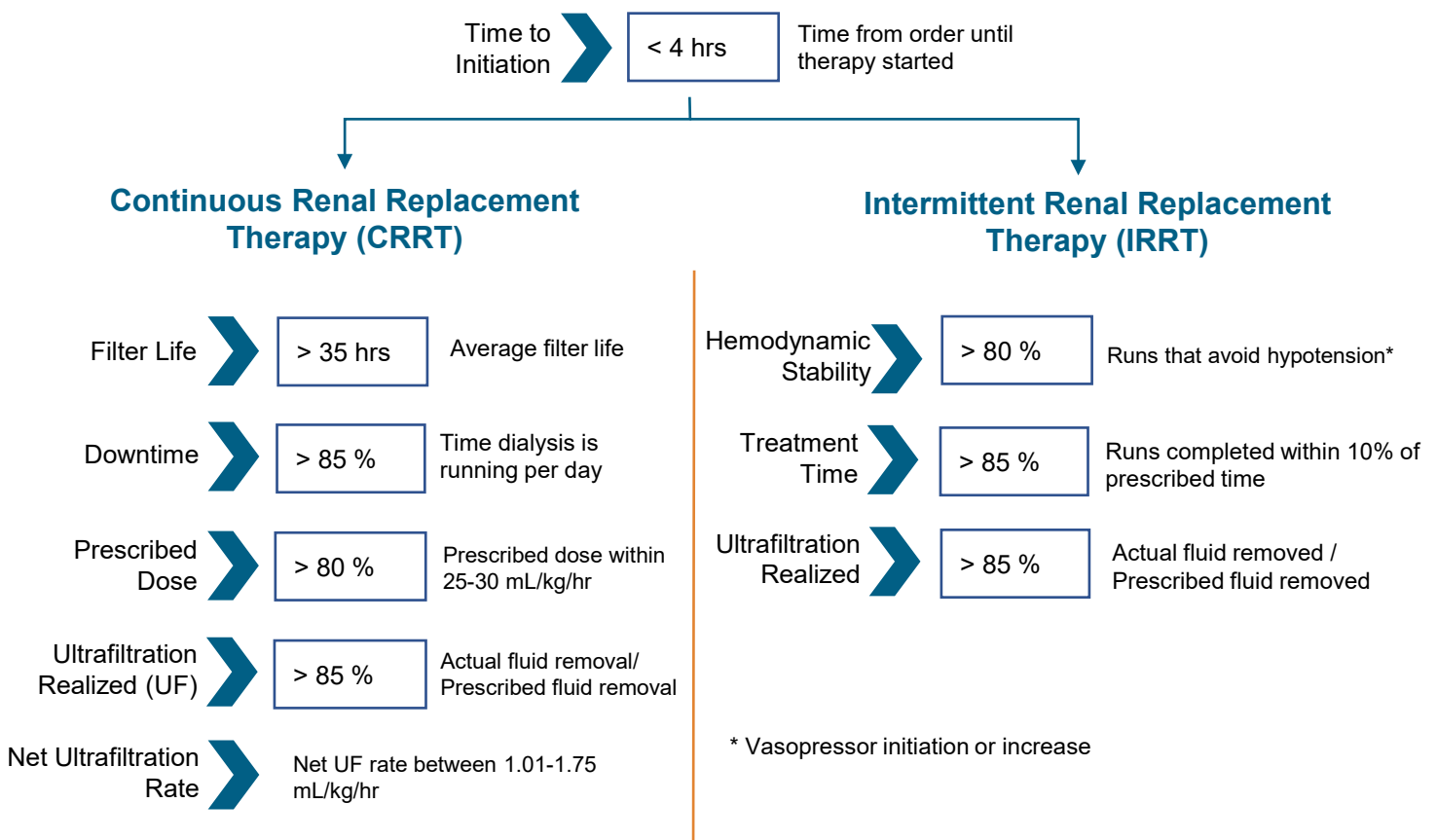


ADULT ICU PATHWAY

Manage RRT & Monitor Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)

Consider the most appropriate mode of dialysis based on hemodynamic stability and available site resources

Includes chronic dialysis. Excludes overdose.



Optimize Acute Dialysis

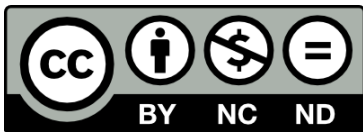
- Anticoagulation
- Recirculation
- Alarm management
- Access

Refer to local and provincial practice guidelines for more guidance on these interventions.

For general inquiries contact: CriticalCare.PIN@ahs.ca



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