Incremental Dialysis Program

Medicine Strategic Clinical Network™

What is incremental dialysis?

- Incremental dialysis is when the frequency of dialysis is adjusted based on patient need.
- New chronic hemodialysis patients receiving care in a facility-based setting are being assessed to see if they can safely be on incremental dialysis. Eligible patients dialyze 2 days/week vs. the standard 3 days/week. When required, patients will move to 3 days/ week or switch to other treatment options.
- This patient centred, provincial implementation program includes patient and staff education, initial and ongoing patient assessments and evaluation.
- Incremental dialysis aligns with AHS' organizational priorities, Medicine Strategic Clinical Network strategic priorities, and has been endorsed by Alberta Kidney Care as a priority program.

How does incremental dialysis benefit patients and healthcare providers?

- Improves quality of life and can improve symptom management
- Can help preserve residual kidney function
- Decreases treatment burden for patients
- Increases capacity to serve additional patients

Progress to date

- 8 key sites in Calgary and Edmonton have launched incremental dialysis between June 2021 and May 2022. Most rural satellite sites in Alberta Kidney Care North have also implemented the program.
- Early results show incremental dialysis is safe, creates additional capacity, and is positively viewed by patients and staff.
- An incremental dialysis therapy plan, initial and monthly assessments, and nursing tasks have been built into Connect Care.
- Since launching this work, the program has completed its original mandate. The following deliverables have been achieved:
    - Develop an incremental dialysis provincial protocol and supporting tools
    - Develop, monitor and report on key performance indicators

Next steps

- Sustainability planning is underway with Alberta Kidney Care North and South.

For more information please contact: medicinescn@ahs.ca

Alberta Health Services
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