

## Helping in the Hemodialysis Unit

Here are some of the activities that you may be asked to assist with in a HD unit. There will always be a HD nurse to support and advise you.

Reference: [Helping in the Hemodialysis Unit: Information for Non-trained Hemodialysis Staff](#).

	HD Trained Nurse (RN, LPN)	Non-HD Trained Nurse (RN, LPN)	Non-HD trained staff (Employed Student Nurse, Technician, Health Care Aide, Allied Health)
<p><b>Scope</b></p> <p>Refer to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Matching Skill Mix Document (BC Renal)</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">BCCNM RN Scope of Practice</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">BCCNM LPN Scope of Practice</a></li> </ul>	<p>Nursing care is provided using a <b>team-based or primary care model</b>. If a team-based model, care may be shared with a non-HD trained nurse(s), with the HD trained nurse(s) providing all HD-specific care.</p>	<p>Nursing care is provided in a <b>team-based model</b>. Responsibility for patients is shared with an HD trained nurse(s) who provides all HD-specific care.</p>	<p>Nursing care is provided in a <b>functional team-based model</b>. An HD-trained nurse(s) assumes overall responsibility for the care. Each member of the team is assigned aspects of care that are within their scope &amp; competency.</p> <p><b>Staff can only perform activities for which they have been trained in post-secondary school, and if authorized by the unit.</b></p>
<p><b>Activities (examples)</b></p>	<p>All activities under Non-HD trained nurse PLUS:</p> <p>HD-specific care including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sets up HD machine</li> <li>• Puts patients on HD, takes off HD</li> <li>• Cannulates AVF/AVG</li> <li>• Accesses CVC, caps off CVC</li> <li>• Administers alteplase</li> <li>• Changes CVC dressing</li> <li>• Takes action on HD machine alarms</li> <li>• Transonic measurements</li> <li>• Disinfects HD machines</li> </ul>	<p>All activities under Non-HD trained staff column PLUS:</p> <p>Care of patients before, during and after dialysis:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Head to toe assessment</li> <li>• Non-HD-specific nursing care (e.g., oxygen support, glucometers)</li> <li>• Medications (PO, SQ and IM)</li> <li>• Second checker for IV antibiotics / infusions/narcotics/blood products</li> <li>• Drainage tube care</li> <li>• Pain &amp; symptom assessment &amp; management</li> </ul>	<p>Before dialysis:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Infectious disease screening (e.g., COVID-19, influenza)</li> <li>• Weighs patient and records findings</li> <li>• Settles patient</li> <li>• Takes and records vital signs (if training complete &amp; unit policy permits)</li> <li>• Ensures access to call bell</li> </ul> <p>During dialysis:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Basic care (hygiene)/toileting</li> <li>• Patient comforts (e.g., blanket, pillow, adjust bed, ice chips)</li> </ul>

	HD Trained Nurse (RN, LPN)	Non-HD Trained Nurse (RN, LPN)	Non-HD trained staff (Employed Student Nurse, Technician, Health Care Aide, Allied Health)
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitors and supports challenging behaviors</li> <li>• Monitors patients before, during and after dialysis (e.g., visual checks, vital signs, safety monitoring, bleeding from access, etc).</li> </ul> <p>Other:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepares blood work tubes, assists with identification/labelling</li> <li>• Prepares supplies for HD, with guidance (e.g., take-off trays)</li> <li>• Bed space safety checks e.g., O2 flow meters; suction, emergency cart</li> <li>• Chart checks</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Takes and records vital signs (if training complete)</li> <li>• Responds to patient call bells</li> <li>• Alerts HD nurse to machine alarms/changes in patient's condition/safety issues</li> <li>• Anticipates portering needs and prepares/assists with transfer</li> <li>• Prepares HD take-off supplies (this will be discussed with the HD nurse)</li> </ul> <p>After dialysis:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Holds sites once needles are removed, applies dressing</li> <li>• Weighs patient and records findings</li> <li>• Takes and records vital signs (if training complete)</li> <li>• Assists with porting patient, if needed</li> <li>• If applicable, cleans and disinfects HD station post HD (e.g., wipe down bed, table, non-HD equipment)</li> </ul> <p>Other:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Makes patient transport arrangements (e.g., HandyDART, call family members for pick-up)</li> <li>• Answers telephones</li> <li>• Assists with workflow/supply stocking</li> <li>• Pulls charts, sets up tables for next shift</li> <li>• Assists in moving chairs/beds, HD machines when needed</li> </ul>