



**NEPHROLOGY PROGRAM  
DEPARTMENT POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**

**Hemodialysis - Section 07 - Medication - Neph 7-04  
Withholding Antianginals / Antihypertensives Pre Hemodialysis  
No.: 01213 (TOH Standardized Policy Number)**

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**ISSUED BY:**

Hemodialysis Clinical Practice Committee

**DATE OF APPROVAL:**

N/A

**APPROVED BY:**

Nephrology Steering Committee /  
Medical Director, Hemodialysis

**LAST REVIEW/REVISION DATE:**

2014/06

**CATEGORY:**

Medications

**IMPLEMENTATION DATE:**

2001/07

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**POLICY STATEMENT:**

**1. Antianginals:**

- Nitroglycerine patch should be removed during dialysis, and re-applied post dialysis; patients scheduled for AM dialysis should be instructed to hold patch in AM, and apply post dialysis; patients experiencing angina during dialysis should be reassessed by physician, who may decide to order that nitropatch be left on during dialysis
- Other antianginal medications such as beta blockers should be given pre dialysis according to prescribed schedule, unless otherwise specified by a physician's order

**2. Antihypertensives:**

- Should be given pre dialysis according to the prescribed schedule, unless otherwise specified by a physician's order
- Exception: short-acting antihypertensives (< 6 hours duration) – Captopril & Hydralazine, which should be held prior to dialysis

**3. In the event that a patient has a hypotensive episode during a hemodialysis treatment and the patient received antihypertensives/antianginals pre hemodialysis treatment, please have the physician assess whether the medication(s) should be administered post-treatment in the future**

**BACKGROUND:**

- Antianginals & Antihypertensives may contribute to hypotension during hemodialysis treatment
- In the prescribing of these drugs, attention should be paid to their pharmacokinetics in renal failure
- Long-acting drugs that are cleared by dialysis should generally be taken after dialysis on dialysis days
- Short-acting drugs should usually be avoided but, if they are necessary, should be held pre-dialysis

**DEFINITION(S):** N/A**ALERTS:** N/A**PROCEDURE:** N/A**RELATED POLICIES / LEGISLATION:** N/A**REFERENCES:** N/A**COMMENTS / SIGNIFICANT REVISIONS:** N/A