



**NEPHROLOGY PROGRAM
DEPARTMENT POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**

**Hemodialysis - Section 03 - Patient Assessment & Management - Neph 3-12
Discarding the Circuit of Blood at the End of a Hemodialysis Treatment
No.: 00713 (TOH Standardized Policy Number)**

ISSUED BY:

Hemodialysis Clinical Practice Committee

DATE OF APPROVAL:

N/A

APPROVED BY:

Program Clinical Director and Division
Head

LAST REVIEW/REVISION DATE:

2015/12

CATEGORY:

Patient Assessment and Management

IMPLEMENTATION DATE:

2003/07

PURPOSE:

- To decrease the patient's hemoglobin to a safe and acceptable range, as prescribed by the physician

BACKGROUND STATEMENTS:

- The patient's hemoglobin may be elevated due to an accelerated response to Erythropoietin (Eprex or Darbepoetin)
- An elevated hemoglobin could cause:
 - a) Hypertension due to increased viscosity of the blood
 - b) Increased clotting of the dialyzer / components of the extracorporeal circuit leading to decreased dialysis clearances
 - c) Increased risk of vascular access thrombosis
- It is expected that the Hemoglobin will decrease by 5 – 10 g/L by discarding one circuit of blood

DEFINITION(S): N/A

ALERTS: N/A

PROCEDURE:

1. Receive the order from the physician to “discard a circuit of blood”
2. Explain procedure to patient
3. At the end of the hemodialysis treatment infuse 250 ml 0.9 % NaCl over 2 to 3 minutes into the circuit. This volume will compensate for the volume that is lost when the circuit of blood is discarded
4. When the circuit has refilled with blood stop the dialysis treatment by stopping the blood pump and clamping the arterial and venous access and arterial and venous bloodline
5. Complete dialysis as per [Neph 5-02 \(#00742\)](#) Discontinuing Hemodialysis with a Fistula/Graft or [Neph 6-02 \(#00749\)](#) Discontinuing Dialysis with a Hemodialysis Catheter
6. Place the circuit into a YELLOW pail, label the pail with a YELLOW Biohazard Waste label and place the white lid on top. At the end of the day, or if before the end of the day and the pail reaches $\frac{3}{4}$ full, hammer the lid in place with a mallet and take it to the soiled room for Housekeeping to pick-up

DOCUMENTATION:

1. Document “Circuit Discarded” in the dialyser clearance section of the NephroCare hemodialysis record. Document that the circuit of blood was discarded due to an elevated hemoglobin, as well as patient response/outcome in the comments section of the NephroCare Post Treatment screen

RELATED POLICIES / LEGISLATION:

1. Administrative Policy and Procedure Manual - [Property and Services - #00231 Biomedical Waste](#)
2. Nephrology Policies & Procedures - [Hemodialysis - Section 05 - AV Fistula/Graft - Neph 5-02 \(#00742\) Discontinuing Hemodialysis for a Patient with a Fistula/Graft using the Gambro Artis Hemodialysis Machine](#)
3. Nephrology Policies & Procedures - [Hemodialysis - Section 06 - Hemodialysis Catheters - Neph 6-02 \(#00749\) Discontinuing Dialysis with a Hemodialysis Catheter and the Gambro Artis Hemodialysis Machine](#)

REFERENCES:

1. Expert opinion of The Ottawa Hospital Nephrologists, November 2012
2. Nephrology Practice Alert #63 March 2007

COMMENTS / SIGNIFICANT REVISIONS: N/A