



**NEPHROLOGY PROGRAM  
DEPARTMENT POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**

**Home Dialysis - Section 07 - Medication - HDU 7-07  
Application of Silver Nitrate to Hypergranulation Tissue (Granuloma)  
No.: 01474 (TOH Standardized Policy Number)**

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**ISSUED BY:**

Home Dialysis Unit Clinical Practice  
Committee

**DATE OF APPROVAL:**

2010/02

**APPROVED BY:**

Program Clinical Director / Division Head

**LAST REVIEW/REVISION DATE:**

2017/ 04

**CATEGORY:**

Medication

**IMPLEMENTATION DATE:**

2010/02

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**POLICY STATEMENT:**

- Silver nitrate is an effective cautery agent
- Topical administration of silver nitrate is used to remove hyper granulation tissue (proud flesh)

**CONTRAINDICATIONS:**

- Sensitivity to silver

**DEFINITION (S):** N/A

**ALERTS:**

- Silver nitrate must be ordered by the physician- including frequency of application
- Do not use silver nitrate if infection is suspected
- Silver nitrate must not come in contact with healthy tissue
- Avoid contact with the catheter as it may cause discoloration of the catheter
- Do not apply Mupirocin cream to exit site post silver nitrate application

**SUPPLIES:**

- Silver Nitrate sticks SPD # 280400
- Syringe x 2

- Needles x 2 (18G, blunt)
- Alcohol swab
- Vial of sterile water
- Vial of 0.9% NaCl
- Sterile gauze (4x4)
- Non sterile 2x2 gauze
- Dressing supplies

#### **PROCEDURE:**

1. Explain procedure to patient.
2. Expose the exit site
3. Assess the exit site for infection.
4. Cleanse the exit site with saline; allow skin to air dry
5. Apply silver nitrate if the hyper granulation tissue is moist; if tissue is not moist wet tip of the silver nitrate stick in sterile water
6. Apply the silver nitrate to the hyper granulation tissue; avoid contact with the PD catheter and healthy tissue. If silver nitrate is in contact with healthy tissue, or if the patient complains of pain, flush the area with sterile saline. The salt will neutralize the silver nitrate.
7. Apply dressing
8. Reassess and repeat application of silver nitrate as ordered by physician

#### Patient Teaching

1. Patient may experience a burning sensation when the silver nitrate is applied
2. Treated hyper granulation tissue will darken, form a scab and fall off within 5-10 days of application of Silver Nitrate
3. Hold Mupirocin cream until scab detaches

#### **RELATED POLICIES / LEGISLATION: N/A**

#### **DOCUMENTATION:**

1. Document the order for silver nitrate in the medication orders
2. Document the assessment of the exit site in the progress notes in NephroCare

#### **REFERENCES:**

1. [http://www.rch.org.au/nephrology/protocols/index.cfm?doc\\_id=9993](http://www.rch.org.au/nephrology/protocols/index.cfm?doc_id=9993)
2. [http://www.nephrologyrounds.ca/crus/nephcdne\\_080903.pdf](http://www.nephrologyrounds.ca/crus/nephcdne_080903.pdf)
3. Twardowski, Z.J., Chronic Peritoneal Dialysis Access, Seminars in Dialysis- vol 5, no 4 (Oct-Dec) 1992 pp 305-315
4. Twardowski, Z.J., Recurrent peritoneal catheter exit-site infections: II, Seminars in Dialysis- vol 6, no 6 (Nov-Dec) 1993 pp 406-408
5. Product information from AMG Medical

#### **COMMENTS / SIGNIFICANT REVISIONS: N/A**