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The Peritoneal Dialysis Kit: How to Prevent an Emergency in the Emergency Room

Jeannine Farina, MSN, RN, CNN, Baxter Healthcare Corporation, McGaw Park, IL; Deborah Basham, RN, DaVita Ashtabula, Ashtabula, OH; Heather Cooper, RN, DaVita Alliance, Alliance, OH; Mary Fetrow, RN, DaVita Belden, Canton, OH; Christine Groening, RN, DaVita Rocky River, Cleveland, OH; Bonnie Nemecek, BSN, RN, DaVita Warrensville Heights, Warrensville Heights, OH

Introduction: Peritoneal dialysis (PD) patients are instructed to report to the local emergency room (ER) for any medical issues after hours. An effluent sample is usually requested. The ER staff often lacks experience in caring for PD patients. This may result in an improper collection of an effluent sample causing peritonitis and/or no growth culture.

Purpose: To properly educate the ER staff on how to obtain a PD effluent sample.

Method: An ER kit was created for the PD patient to take with them for any ER visit. The kit consists of:

- one 8"x11" clear sealable plastic bag
- patient directions to report to the ER
- facility and nephrologist contact information
- written and pictorial directions on how to correctly obtain a peritoneal effluent sample
- one sterile effluent sample bag
- two betadine caps

Patients were instructed on how to use the kit in October 2010 in thirteen facilities. A data collection tool will be implemented to assess the effectiveness of the ER kit in preventing contamination of the PD system and obtaining an adequate effluent sample.

Results: Data collection in process.

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