



Decreasing Long-Term Catheter (LTC) Infections for Patients Receiving Hemodialysis in the Nursing Home

This resource offers tips to help reduce the rate of LTC infections if your facility or organization provides hemodialysis to patients residing in a nursing home.

Communication

- Identify a point of contact at each nursing home.
- Attend monthly nursing home conferences at the nursing home to collaborate on the patient's plan of care (facility nurse manager and social worker).
- Hold weekly meetings with the nursing home director of nursing or unit manager via phone or in person to discuss all dialysis patients and their care.
- Develop a daily communication sheet for each patient that can be shared between the dialysis provider and the nursing home.
- Conduct communication hand-offs between nursing home and dialysis staff to clearly explain/define patient status and needs, including other clinical appointments (e.g., vascular surgeon).

Education

- Track and trend LTC care by specific staff members. Reeducate as needed.
- Follow CDC Core Interventions, such as proper catheter hub disinfection.
- Engage patients in their catheter management (i.e., advise patients that the nursing home staff should never try to draw blood from the catheter and should not touch the catheter).
- Educate nursing home staff on LTC care:
 - Do not touch the catheter or the dressing.
 - Do not get the dressing wet.
 - Do not access the catheter for blood draws.
 - Do not tug on the catheter, especially when transferring patients.
- Focus on removing LTCs as quickly as possible—Follow a central venous catheter removal algorithm to make sure that catheters are out within 90 days.

Reducing Blood Transfusions

- Start early doses of an erythropoiesis-stimulating agent and start iron, if needed, for new patients admitted to the nursing home.
- Ensure all patients are on a maintenance iron protocol.
- Draw blood for hemoglobin on the first day the patient is discharged from the hospital and returned to the nursing home.

Resources

- [CDC Audit Tool: catheter connection and disconnection observations](#)
- [CDC Audit Tool: catheter exit site care observations](#)