EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT POLICIES

SUBJECT: Guidelines for Evaluation and Management of Dialysis Patients in the Emergency Department

Original Date of Issue: 2/82

POLICY:

All dialysis patients presenting with symptoms related to the renal condition will be classified as Acute or Critical and triaged appropriately.

IMPLEMENTATION:

• Patients should have STAT chemistry and CBC as indicated
• An ECG should be obtained if hyperkalemia or a cardiovascular problem is suspected.
• For graft problems, the vascular or renal transplant service may be consulted.
• For emergent or urgent dialysis, the renal consult should be contacted.
• The renal consult may be notified prior to the disposition of any dialysis patient to assist in evaluation and provide continuity of care.

NOTES:

Emergency dialysis is provided in the MSH dialysis center or in resus bed #5, and bed #23 of the ED under the supervision of the dialysis treatment center.

No patient may be directly sent to a dialysis center without prior arrangement with the treatment center.

The renal consult will assist in coordinating the transfer of non urgent, stable, chronic dialysis patients back to their respective dialysis centers or backup hospital.