

# Hemodialysis while travelling outside of Canada

## Checklist for choosing a safe dialysis unit

This checklist includes questions you should ask yourself or dialysis unit staff to prevent the spread of infection.

**At least 6 months before you travel**, ask a family member or friend (that lives close to the dialysis unit where you plan to have your dialysis treatment) to visit and ask the questions below.

The goal is to find a dialysis unit where you would feel comfortable and safe having your dialysis treatments.

### What to look for

When a family member or friend visits the unit, they should find out the following.

### Does the dialysis unit look clean, and well organized?

- The floor is not cluttered with items you could trip over.
- The unit looks clean.
- There are no old spills on the floor or walls.

### Do you think there is enough light for the staff to see clearly?

- There is enough light for staff to see while working with a dialysis catheter or needles.

### Does dialysis unit staff wash their hands?

Hands must be washed with liquid soap and water:

- Before caring for each patient
- After caring for each patient
- After using equipment
- Before putting on gloves
- After taking gloves off

### Does the dialysis unit have proper sinks and supplies for hand washing?

- Clean hot and cold running water should be available.
- Alcohol-based hand cleanser should be available (hand cleaning gel).
- Liquid soap and paper towels should be available.
- Different sinks should be used for hand washing and cleaning equipment.

### Does dialysis unit staff use clean gloves for each patient?

- Staff remove gloves and wash hands after caring for each patient.
- Staff put on clean gloves before caring for each patient.

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### Questions to ask

This section includes questions you can ask about how spread of infection is prevented.

- Does dialysis unit staff use a mask if they are coughing or appear sick?
- Is new equipment used for each patient such as needles, dialyzers, and dialysis blood lines?
- Does the dialysis unit use a new dialyzer each time you have dialysis?
- Does dialysis unit staff open packages of new equipment in front of you?

\*You will get a refund for a set amount for each treatment when you return to Canada if you have your receipts and treatment records.

**The most important ways to prevent infection are to use new equipment with each dialysis treatment and hand washing.**

**Are needles and gloves thrown away after each use?**

- Needles should be placed into a sharps container.

**How is the dialysis machine cleaned and disinfected between patients?**

- Inside of the machine should be disinfected.
- Machine should be cleaned from the outside.