

SHARING HIGHLY EFFECTIVE PRACTICE

The Forum of ESRD Networks has defined a **Highly Effective Practice** as:
A procedure or set of processes that has been shown by research and/or experience to produce optimal results and that is established or proposed a practice suitable for widespread adoption.

Title/Name of Project: COVID-19 Communication Between Skilled Nursing Facilities/Personal Care Homes and Dialysis Facilities

Area of Interest: Other: Communication

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DESCRIPTION & OUTCOMES: As we are dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic, one major vulnerability that was identified by a regional workgroup in Allegheny County in Pennsylvania is the risk of transmission of SARS-CoV-2 infection from conjugate living facilities (skilled nursing facilities and assisted living/personal care homes) to dialysis facilities. It is estimated that more than 20% of ESRD patients in Pennsylvania reside in conjugate living facilities. Particular concern developed after a patient was sent from a nursing home to dialysis using a shared van without any notification or implementation of isolation despite having tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 by RT-PCR on a nasal swab. Although SNF/PCH are supposed to communicate with dialysis facilities regarding changes in patient status, this does not routinely occur. We therefore developed a communication form that could be used to facilitate communication between the living facility, transportation company and the dialysis facility, documenting patient status and facility status. A slightly different form had been developed by Dr. Siddharth Shah at the University of Pennsylvania to accomplish the same goals. Implementation of these forms is ongoing and validation of their effectiveness is pending. We are working with the Pennsylvania Department of Health to facilitate wide implementation of a version of these forms across the State.

EXPLAIN WHY THE PROJECT/ACTIVITY IS A HIGHLY EFFECTIVE PRACTICE: We believe that the communication issues encountered are widespread and that implementation of a communication form similar to those proposed will enhance transparent communication between conjugate living facilities and dialysis facilities, improve patient care and diminish the risk of spread of COVID-19.

WERE ANY FORUM/NETWORK TOOLS/INTERVENTIONS USED? No.

*The 3 communication tools referenced above are available as separate downloads from the Forum website and are being shared for use by the community.

Update 07/30/2020: The 3 original forms referenced in this project have been replaced with one (1) updated version which has been endorsed by several Nursing Home organizations.

This Best Practice was received by the Forum on May 29, 2020, and approved by the the Forum's Sharing Highly Effective Practice Review Committee on June 19, 2020.