



Dialysis Lessons Learnt from adverse incident reports

General

- ! Always be familiar and up-to-date with the latest version of the machine and disposables you are using.
- ! Ensure suitable aseptic techniques are followed when setting up and during treatment.
- ! Do not override alarms without first checking the cause.

Blood glucose

- ! Maltose in certain peritoneal dialysis fluids and intravenous infusions can cause overestimation of blood glucose.
- ! Ensure that you are familiar with the limitations of blood glucose measuring devices when used in conjunction with dialysis treatments.

Automated peritoneal dialysis

- ! Ensure patients are familiar with the instructions on how to pause a treatment and how to detach and reattach to the disposable set during treatment.
- ! Be aware of the risk of over-fill (or increased intraperitoneal volume) occurring due to incorrectly programmed parameters, or if incorrect prescription parameters are input.

Haemodialysis, haemofiltration and haemodiafiltration

- Ensure careful placement, configuration and removal of dialysis tubing sets by following the instructions for pre-use checks and disconnection (especially in the clamp areas, sensor areas and pressure pods).
- Be aware of the risk of air embolism from the dialysis circuit. Always treat air related alarms and air in the circuit with care while protecting the patient.
- Ensure that the correct dialysis prescription is calculated and entered, especially the weight loss and heparin infusion.
- Ensure that syringe pumps that are not part of the dialysis machine are not connected to the input side of the blood pump.
- Set venous pressure alarms to a pressure just below the working pressure in the system and
- always ensure that the venous needle is visible and not covered. Regularly check the connection.
- If using a separated bicarbonate and buffer solution bag in haemofiltration ensure the seal is broken and that both solutions are mixed before attaching to the machine.
- If machines are subject to being moved, ensure that they are transported appropriately, and always ensure regular checks are undertaken e.g. on the wheels as part of the servicing.