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IMPROVING ACCESS & QUALITY OF CARE FOR RURAL INPATIENTS REQUIRING HEMODIALYSIS

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Background

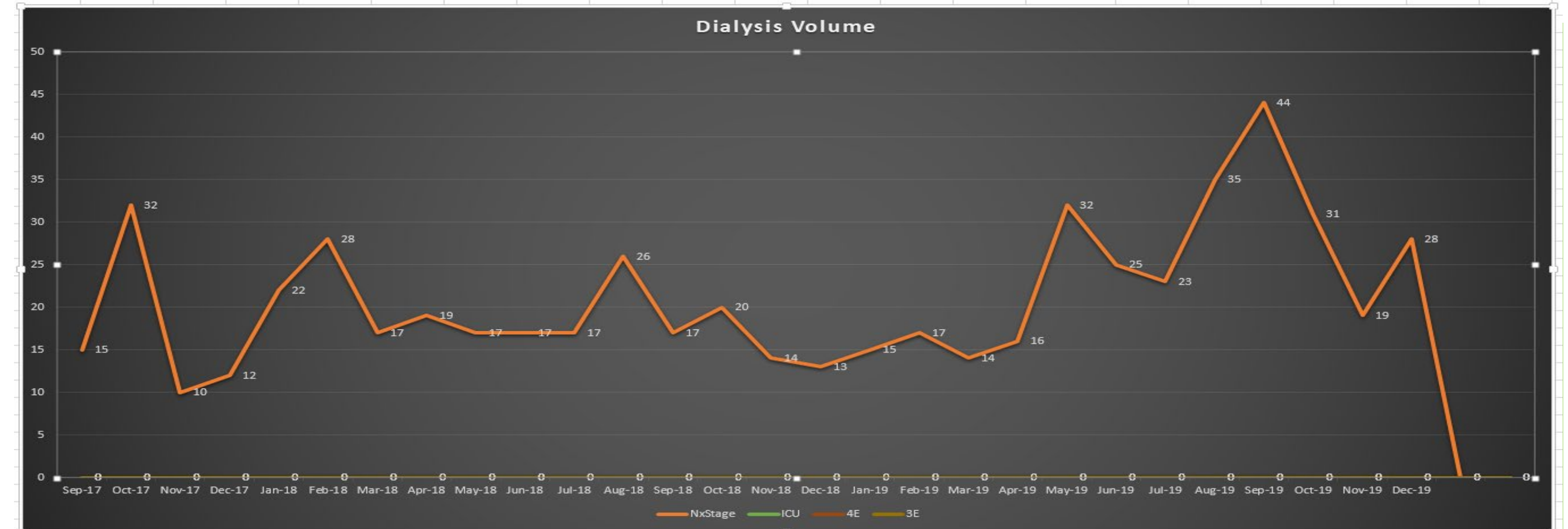
- Increasing rates of renal disease across US
- Limited access to hemodialysis services in rural areas
- Rural residents face more barriers, health disparities & poorer outcomes
- Availability of contracted service provider not consistent; treatment delays
- Transfer out of community very difficult for patients

Purpose

- To develop a reliable renal replacement therapy (RRT) service

Program Development

- Selected NxStage® CRRT system
- Designed for home use
- Generalist critical care nurses trained to use system
- Super user model of education used to provide training to all staff



Advantages

- Adaptable; potential to use in any setting
- Prevents transfers out for RRT
- Easy to set up, operate and maintain
- Closed system; eliminates the intensive water and disinfection management
- Single use, sterile supplies
- Mobile – can be moved and used in any area of the hospital
- No special infrastructure necessary

Disadvantages

- Completely new area of practice for ICU nurses; initially some resistance to accepting this as a foundational skill
- Lower dialysate flow rates so longer run times
- Decreased patient satisfaction because of the longer treatment times
- Lack of communication between our facility and outpatient dialysis center