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