

AA: Dialysis Nursing Specialty

Major Competency Area: **AA**
Dialysis Nursing Specialty

Priority: **One**
Restricted Activity Authorization

Competency: **AA-1**
HPA Authorization and Standards

Date: September 1, 2005

A Licensed Practical Nurse will:

AA-1-1 Demonstrate understanding of the restricted activity in the LPN Regulation 2003 (15 [2]) authorizing dialysis specialty:

“Despite subsection (1) only a regulated member on the specialized practice register who is specifically authorized by the Registrar may perform the restricted activity of inserting or removing Instruments, devices, fingers or hands into an artificial opening into the body for the purposes of performing dialysis.”

Health Professions Act LPN Regulation 2003

Note: LPNs who practice the Dialysis Specialty have completed specialized education approved by CLPNA.

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Competency: **AA-2**
Knowledge of Dialysis Nursing

Date: September 1, 2005

A Licensed Practical Nurse will:

AA-2-1 Demonstrate knowledge and ability to apply critical thinking and clinical judgment in the dialysis role.

AA-2-2 Demonstrate knowledge of human anatomy and physiology, specifically the urinary system, renal function, and cardiovascular system.

AA-2-3 Demonstrate knowledge of pathophysiology, symptoms, treatment, and interventions of renal failure:

- pathophysiology of renal failure
- symptoms
- disruption to kidney function
- osmosis, diffusion, ultra-filtration
- symptoms related to poor dialysis
- treatments:
 - peritoneal dialysis
 - hemodialysis
 - diet and fluid restrictions
 - sodium, potassium, calcium and phosphorous restrictions.

AA-2-4 Demonstrate knowledge and ability to assess for associated health problems:

- acuchecks
- edema
- hypertension
- ischemic feet
- lab values
- mental status
- need for dietary consult
- weight changes.

AA-2-5 Demonstrate knowledge and ability to apply standard precautions, WHMIS Regulations, and principles of asepsis in Dialysis Nursing.

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Competency: **AA-3**
**Assessment and Nursing Care
of Dialysis Client**

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A Licensed Practical Nurse will:

AA-3-1 Demonstrate knowledge and assessment of the access for evidence of:

- flow
- presence of fistula, graft or central line
- presence of bruit
- clotting
- palpate for thrill
- aneurysm
- infection
- knowledge of clients medications – purpose, frequency, side effects, and correct infusion and administration procedures.

AA-3-2 Demonstrate ability to create an atmosphere that is conducive to patient comfort needs:

- observe and report client's physical and emotional condition and take appropriate action
- sensitive, diplomatic, empathetic manner.

AA-3-3 Demonstrate ability to apply nursing process to the care of the dialysis client.

AA-3-4 Demonstrate knowledge and ability to provide medications in the dialysis environment, as per agency policy. (See Competency Bands U and V)

AA-3-5 Demonstrate ability to document nursing assessment, treatments, effects, and outcomes.

AA-3-6 Demonstrate ability to provide health teaching to client and family throughout the process.

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Competency: **AA-4**
**Initiate, Monitor and Discontinue
Dialysis Treatment**

Date: September 1, 2005

A Licensed Practical Nurse will:

AA-4-1 Demonstrate knowledge and ability to initiate, monitor, and discontinue a dialysis treatment:

- auscultate lungs prn
- perform venipuncture
- recognize excessive weight gain and know limitations for fluid removal
- calculate and adjust fluid removal
- assess and correct access difficulties
- assess needling problems
- maintain medical asepsis
- draw blood from access sites – collect, label, send specimens
- monitor vital signs
- respond appropriately to unusual symptoms or emergencies, i.e., hypotension, unresponsiveness, confusion, cramping
- control bleeding from patient's access site
- note clotting time
- document and report to team leader.

AA-4-2 Demonstrate knowledge and ability to understand the mechanics of dialysis and related equipment:

- initiate equipment repairs and maintenance
- H₂O treatment
- conductivity and pH meters
- glucometers
- assemble or assist with assembling equipment, including hemo-dialysis machines
- recognize alarm conditions
- order supplies
- adhere to safety measures.