



March 15, 2020

Dear Provider,

As the Coronavirus/COVID-19 continues to spread, we wanted to inform you of the steps we have taken and will be taking to help maintain the safety of our patients and our staff. We recognize that information is being reported in a variety of outlets and updated on a very frequent basis. This can create confusion among staff and patients. We ask that all providers attempt to practice in support of the interventions that are outlined below. Of course, we also welcome feedback from you, as the front-line providers regarding updates and adjustments we may need to make as we progress. Your opinions are extremely valuable to our continued future success.

1. We are constantly monitoring the Center for Disease Control, Department of Health, and World Health Organization websites and taking necessary precautions. The risk of catching COVID-19 remains low to the majority of the U.S. population, but there is a risk and our patients are at higher risk than the general population.
2. We have a weekly update call on Weds morning at 9am. All are welcome to join. The dial-in number is 916-233-0780. Participant ID: 349898#
3. All centers must screen all visitors immediately upon entrance into the building. This screening involves taking a temperature and questioning as to travel history, potential exposure to COVID-19, and potential symptoms of COVID-19. No individual entering the unit is exempt from this screening and every person must be screened with each entry.
4. Please see the attached policy regarding identification of patients potentially infected by COVID-19. Your patients will be screened as represented in the policy and if there are any positive screens, you will be notified.
5. Several local hospitals have become inundated with patients who are either ill, or concerned about being ill. As a result, some of our patients who might have previously been admitted are being seen in the ER and sent home instead of being admitted. As such, we are treating these patients without knowing COVID-19 status. In these circumstances, we are requiring the patient to wear an ear-loop mask at all times in the building and monitoring temperature. If there is known exposure to COVID-19, these patients may also have to change shifts to the last shift of the day and be separated from the nearest patient by 1 full station. We ask for your patience while we make these changes.
6. We will be opening a COVID-19 specific shift at Newtown Dialysis Center starting 3/17/20. This will be 4th shift at that center and will be dedicated to COVID-19 positive patients, or patients with reasonable suspicion of exposure to COVID-19 only. Patients that meet criteria from other, local ADMS affiliates may be temporarily assigned to this location/shift as deemed necessary. If the need for additional shifts becomes necessary at other centers, we will address this on an ongoing basis.
7. You remain the ultimate decision maker as to a patient's suitability for chronic in-center dialysis. If at any time, you do not feel your patient is medically stable for



chronic in-center dialysis, please let the Charge Nurse, member of the clinic's senior staff, or member of the corporate clinical management team know and we will address this concern.

8. Testing for COVID-19 remains difficult to obtain. If you feel your patient requires testing, please feel free to reach out to a member of the corporate clinical management team to discuss this possibility.
9. We want you to protect yourself appropriately and be prepared to report any symptoms you may have as quickly as possible so that you can receive the appropriate care. The key to minimizing the effects of COVID-19 is to receive medical care early in the infection. While there is no cure for COVID-19, appropriate medical care can greatly reduce your risk of negative effects. There is a wide range of symptoms of COVID-19, but the most common are: fever, sweats, chills, shortness of breath, and cough. All providers are required to wear a disposable impermeable gown when in the dialysis treatment area, wear gloves when touching patients, and perform hand hygiene whenever removing gloves. At no time will procedures beyond dialysis be performed on the dialysis treatment floor.
10. Any provider that develops respiratory symptoms, a fever, is exposed to COVID-19, or travels outside of the U.S. should immediately notify a member of the corporate clinical management team Administrator.
11. Ricardo Sime is the Corporate Administrative Lead for COVID-19 response (516-642-1389).
Steven Weiss is the Corporate Clinical Lead for COVID-19 response (347-512-9090).
Both can be reached at any time if you have concerns.
Additional members of the ADMS corporate clinical management team remain:
Mayette Casco, Dr. J. G. Bhat, Dr. Nirmal Mattoo.

Thank you for your continued service,
The Atlantic Dialysis Management Team

Information about Coronavirus/COVID-19

What is coronavirus?

Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses that are common in people and many different species of animals. COVID-19 Novel (meaning “new”) coronavirus is a virus strain that has only spread in people since December 2019. There are thousands of confirmed cases in the world and additional cases being identified in a growing number of countries internationally, including the United States.

How does novel coronavirus spread?

The virus that causes COVID-19 probably emerged from an animal source, but now is spreading from person to person. Since this virus is very new, health authorities continue to carefully watch how this virus spreads. Other coronaviruses spread from an infected person to others through:

- The air by coughing and sneezing
- Close personal contact, such as touching or shaking hands
- Touching an object or surface with the virus on it, then touching your mouth, nose, or eyes

How can I prevent getting novel coronavirus?

Currently there are no vaccines available to prevent novel coronavirus infections. Steps you can take to prevent spread of flu and the common cold will also help prevent coronavirus:

1. Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If not available, use hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.
2. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands
3. Avoid close contact with people who are sick
4. Stay home while you are sick, except dialysis, and avoid contact with others
5. Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or sleeve when coughing or sneezing
6. Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces

How severe is novel coronavirus?

People infected have had illness that has ranged from mild (like a common cold) to severe pneumonia that requires medical care in a hospital. So far, deaths have been reported mainly in older adults who had other health conditions.

What are the symptoms?

People who have been diagnosed with novel coronavirus have symptoms that may appear in as few as two days or as long as 14 days after exposure to the virus. Symptoms may include fever, cough, and shortness of breath.



How is novel coronavirus treated?

There is no specific treatment for coronavirus. Most people with mild coronavirus illness will recover on their own by drinking adequate fluids, resting, and taking pain and fever medications. However, some people develop pneumonia and need medical care or treatment in a hospital. Speak with your doctor for the care best for you.