

Nurse/Patient ratio in PD unit

The questions for the discussion:

What is the nurse/patient ratio in your PD unit?

Is your PD unit considered an extension of the hemodialysis unit, or a separate unit?

Do PD nurses have "on-call" slots separate from hemo nurses?

The topic is still ongoing. So far we have to find out if we were talking about two different scenarios. In-centre treatment and home PD patients who are coming in for training and outpatient clinic.

The nurse/patient ratio differs between 1:5 - 1: 40-42.

Five colleagues replied that the PD-unit is separated from the HD unit, two told us that they are not separated and some did not answer that particular question.

Bettie from the Netherlands did some research and found that the ratio has been 1:15 in the 80's and is now 1:12/13. That is due to the patient's more complex needs.

That's different with the on call duty. Only two have separate on-call service for PD. One has it in the daytime but at night the HD nurses cover the on-call. Most share this duty with the HD-section.

We received a few detailed answers to the organisation of PD-sections.

Like plans to combine Home-PD and Home-HD as they want to increase Home-HD numbers. One offers video or telephone consultation with a nurse. If the nurse thinks that the patient needs to see a nephrologist, the on-call doctor will be informed and take care of the organisation.

We learned about a unit with 8 nurses (mostly part-time). They have a team-manager and are supported by a nurse practitioner and nephrologists. They work in two shifts (7:00-16:30h and 8:15-17:00h).

As we said from the start the topic is ongoing. We would like to know who is offering in-centre PD treatment. What is the skill-mix in the PD-units. Do more work with APN or NP. The ones with on-call done by HD-nurses as well as PD-nurses - how to ensure that HD nurses are up to date with their PD knowledge and routine. Do you think a separate unit makes sense if you have a certain number of PD-patients. Do more have a combined home-dialysis section for PD and HD.

Just come and join us on RenalPro.

Yours

Sabine&Chava