

## **Step Down Unit Hemodialysis Process**

### **Patients with Urgent Hemodialysis needs meeting the below criteria:**

To Step Down:

1. Established HD patients
2. Pts with K 6.5 to 8 without life threatening EKG changes on telemetry.
3. Pts on non-rebreather or nasal cannula
4. pH  $\geq$  7.2 (ABG OR VBG required on admission)
5. Patient does NOT require titratable hemodynamic infusions (IV push antihypertensives are permissible)

### **The admission process is as follows:**

1. ED calls ICU for admission
  - a. ICU fellow reviews labs, Vitals and necessity of hemodynamic infusions and respiratory support and determines eligibility for Step Down Unit
  - b. ICU fellow notifies ICU Charge Nurse who works with 3 South Charge Nurse to identify Step Down Unit Bed
  - c. If bed available ICU fellow calls medicine admitting resident for admission to 3 south Step Down unit. If no Step Down Unit Bed available patient will need to be admitted to the ICU.
2. ICU Downgrades requiring Urgent HD to Step Down Unit
  - a. If patient meets above criteria and there is a Step Down Unit bed available then the downgrade will occur. Determined by ICU team.

### **On going care**

Hemodialysis will occur in the patient room with HD nurse at bedside and in room telemetry monitoring as well as primary nurse availability.

All labs will be obtained via RN collect.

When the patient has finished HD the primary nurse will notify the primary provider(s) with updated vital signs (BP and oxygen support need) to determine appropriateness for step down from this unit the general medical floor.

**All Admissions to this unit will occur 7am-5pm Monday-Saturday.** With a goal of patient occupying the Step Down Unit bed by approximately 5pm.

Transfer OUT of this unit will occur when the primary team, nephrology team and bedside nurse have agreed on clinical stability for downgrade.

On transfer the primary MD will be responsible for completing a Transfer Order Reconciliation to remove ALL ICU/Step Down level orders upon transfer and update any other ongoing care orders.