



Northwest Kidney Centers
(Clinical Dialysis/Patient Care/Bowel Protocol Hemodialysis)

Bowel Protocol for Hemodialysis

Application: Constipation is a common problem for people on dialysis in part due to fluid restrictions and a low potassium diet which limits the types and amount of fiber in their diets. Medications such as phosphorus binders and opioid also contribute to constipation.

Goal: The focus of the Bowel Protocol for Hemodialysis is to relieve and prevent constipation.

Policy:

1. All patients on hemodialysis will be evaluated for constipation and given the appropriate recommendation. Bowel Protocol orders will be entered using ICD-10 K59.00.

Procedure:

1. RD will interview patients on

4. If a patient has severe constipation Type 1 on the Bristol Stool Form Scale or hasn't had any bowel movement in 3 days, refer to MD.
 - a. RN can provide 1 dose of lactulose in the unit immediately