 <p>PHILIPPINE HEART CENTER Medical</p>	Document Type	Document Code:
	POLICY	Effective Date: MAY 2020
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	PREVENTION OF COVID-19 TRANSMISSION IN THE RENAL AND METABOLIC UNIT	Page: 2 of 3

I. STATEMENT POLICY

Interim policies and guidelines in the prevention of COVID-19 transmission in the Renal and Metabolic Unit

II. OBJECTIVE


To ensure that the Philippine Heart Center Hemodialysis Unit is COVID19-free and safe to both healthcare workers and patients undergoing hemodialysis treatments.

III. SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

1. To identify, isolate and treat all COVID-19 (+) healthcare workers
2. To Identify, isolate and refer COVID-19 (+) patients to a DOH-recognized COVID-19 hemodialysis center

IV. POLICY GUIDELINES

1. Prevention of transmission
 - 1.1. Checking for COVID-19 symptoms
 - 1.2. Patients or relatives are advised to inform the unit ahead of their hemodialysis schedule if the hemodialysis patient is experiencing of any of the following: fever, chills, cough, colds, sore throat, difficulty in breathing not related to pulmonary congestion. If such symptoms are present, they should inform Hemodialysis unit and proceed to the nearest COVID-19 referral hospital. Symptomatic patients are never to proceed to the HD unit first.
 - 1.3. Upon arrival at the Philippine Heart Center, they are advised to either wait at the designated patient waiting area or in their vehicles to practice social distancing. When the HD machine is ready for their treatment, they will be called to proceed to the Unit. Five (5) patients will be called in to the unit entrance one at a time.
 - 1.4. Pre-assessment for COVID 19 symptoms is done by a nurse at the entrance of unit prior proceeding to the treatment area.
2. Routine Mandatory Testing
 - 2.1. The Philippine Heart Center Renal and Metabolic Unit will be conducting mandatory testing (OPS/NPS) for all staff, patients and their relatives periodically. Should any of the patients test positive, they will be transferred to a DOH-recognized COVID-19 hemodialysis center, with the coordination of their respective attending nephrologist.

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3. Social Distancing

- 3.1. Strictly NO MASK, NO ENTRY POLICY.
- 3.2. Relatives/Companions are strictly not allowed to stay inside the treatment area
- 3.3. The hemodialysis unit will not accept new patients for chronic hemodialysis during this interim COVID-19 period.
- 3.4. Patients are advised to have their meals prior to hemodialysis treatment to prevent removal of masks during the hemodialysis session.

4. Reduction of Operating Hours

- 4.1. Removal of the Third Treatment Shift
- 4.2. The Unit will remove its third treatment shift (which usually starts at 4:00pm, and ends at 8-9:00pm). Patients who have been scheduled during this shift will be re-scheduled to either the 1st (6:00-10:00am) or 2nd shift (11:00am-3:00pm). Schedule shall be given by the nurse.
- 4.3. Priority will be given to patients who are already being treated for co-morbid cardiovascular disease at the Philippine Heart Center.

5. Re-scheduling of current hemodialysis patients

- 5.1. Patients who are receiving HD treatments three times a week will now be scheduled to twice a week. However, their treatment durations will be increased to five (5) hours, from the previous four (4) hours. Patients who have been on HD twice a week will keep the same treatment frequency. It is possible that the schedules of ALL patients will be affected by this re-scheduling.
- 5.2. Non-heart patients who cannot be accommodated into 2 shifts will be advised to have hemodialysis in other nearby hemodialysis centers or hospitals.
- 5.3. COVID-19 Hemodialysis patients will be referred to a hemodialysis center or hospital that treats COVID-19 patients.
- 5.4. Patients who were previously on HD three times a week and now are re-scheduled to twice a week cannot avail of a third HD slot in another HD center. This is to prevent them from contracting the virus outside.