



The SCOOP on units: Acute Dialysis Unit (Nephrology)

This is a five-bed unit serving the adult population requiring dialysis or plasmapheresis services.

The unit allows the nurse to function in an acute-care setting as well as collaborating with our Intensive Care, Progressive Care, and Med-Surg teams to serve critically ill patients. We serve inpatients, observation, emergency patients, and outpatient-post procedure.

Services include hemodialysis and peritoneal dialysis for acute, chronic, and transient patients 24/7.

Plasmapheresis is also provided by our exceptional staff, short and long term.



"I read a quote once from an unknown author: 'Teamwork divides the task and multiplies success.' How true for our small but mighty five-bed dialysis unit! We dialyze 300-350 patients a month. Our team consists of RNs (all ACLS certified), LPNs, and PCTs. Staff must work as a team daily to provide the care our patients need and deserve.

As an inpatient unit we use many of our nursing skills for high acuity patients and work closely with our Altoona nephrologist and telemedicine nephrologist. We provide acute patients with a bridge until their kidneys recover or they are discharged to an outpatient dialysis unit. For chronic patients, some of whom are awaiting a kidney transplant, we provide dialysis treatments during their inpatient stay until they are discharged to home/rehab/skilled nursing facility and return to their home dialysis unit.

Nurses are likely to care for a dialysis patient sometime in their careers. Understanding the causes of renal failure, the care required, and the special needs of these patients would be highly beneficial to both patient and nurse."

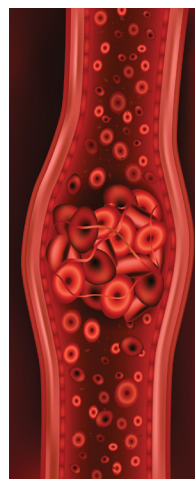
—Kim Stultz, senior clinician, Inpatient Dialysis

Know the signs of deadly VTE

Venous thromboembolism (VTE) includes deep-vein thrombosis (DVT) and pulmonary embolism (PE).

DVT occurs when a blood clot forms in the leg, pelvis, or arm. PE is a life-threatening condition that occurs when a blood clot breaks loose and travels to the lungs.

Blood clots are a common, deadly condition. VTE kills 100,000 Americans a year and affects another 900,000. Blood clots can be hard to diagnose. Knowing the signs could save a life.



Common signs of DVT

- Leg pain, cramps
- Swelling
- Skin discoloration
- Warmth in the affected leg



Common signs of PE

- Shortness of breath
- Coughing up blood
- Chest pain
- Irregular heartbeat
- Lightheadedness or dizziness



Most student friendly unit contest reminder

Please SCAN the QR code or click **WEB LINK** to cast your vote. Votes will be due no later than May 8.



EMPLOYMENT Opportunities



NURSING STUDENTS

<https://careers.upmc.com/nursing>



GRADUATE NURSES

UPMC Altoona GN Opportunities

On vacation

This is the final **StethoSCOOP** of the school year. We will return in September. We hope you have found every issue informative and helpful. Have a great summer!

