



SOUTH AFRICAN RENAL SOCIETY

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Re: Haemodialysis once a week – SARS Position Statement

Dear Colleagues

Please be advised that we have been approached for an opinion on once weekly haemodialysis by funders.

Please see the following excerpt from our consensus and evidence based guideline published on our website in May 2015:

“The dialysis care team should deliver a prescribed HD dose as follows:

- ***Thrice-weekly schedule, with a midweek Kt/V of at least 1.2 or URR of 65% per session.***

Note 1: Twice-weekly schedules are not recommended, unless there is significant residual renal function.”

On discussion with our EXCO we have suggested that once a week haemodialysis is not evidenced based and may only be used in special circumstances for a short period of time (maximum 3 months). The attending nephrologist would be expected to provide detailed motivation for such circumstances.

Examples of such circumstances would be peritoneal dialysis patients who may need augmented ultrafiltration, occasionally when initiating patients on HD who need ultrafiltration mainly before residual renal function declines, and patients who are recovering from AKI or after successful treatment kidney disease.

Regards

Prof Graham Paget
President, the South African Renal Society