

# In-Center Hemodialysis Standing Orders – Heparin Protocol

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**Heparin** ICD 10 code: N18.6, End-Stage Renal Disease

**Purpose:** To provide optimal management of anticoagulation for in-center hemodialysis patients through the use of heparin.

**Heparin Dosing:** By bolus. Initial Heparin dose per physician order using heparin 1,000 units/ml vial.

1. Maximum initial bolus 8000 units.
2. Doses higher than 8000 units require Medical Director or CMO approval.
3. Physician requests for hourly heparin dosing do not require CMO approval, but all dosing and changes for hourly heparin must be managed by ordering physician.

**Heparin Dosing Adjustment:**

**Do not change** the heparin dose more frequently than every 1 week unless:

- a. Ordered by physician – or –
  - b. There is a clinical indication to stop heparin, including but not limited to an allergic reaction, recent trauma, or prolonged bleeding, as defined below.  
Nurse can make this determination.
1. If clotting, notify MD by fax and increase initial bolus by 500u.  
Clotting is defined as:
    - a. Shadows or black streaks in dialyzer, or extremely dark blood.
    - b. Clot formation in drip chambers, venous trap, arterial side header, or other sections of dialysis tubing at rinseback.
  2. Decrease initial bolus by 500 units for prolonged bleeding.  
Prolonged bleeding is defined as bleeding for greater than 10 minutes after removal of needles.
  3. If there is evidence of fall, bruising, same day surgery, or dental visit, notify MD by fax and decrease initial bolus by 50%. If active bleeding is present, such as nosebleed, vaginal bleeding, or suspected pericarditis, hold heparin and notify MD by phone.

Suzanne Watnick, MD

Physician Name (Please Print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Physician Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**Patient Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**NKC#** \_\_\_\_\_