



WHAT THE DIALYSIS DOCTOR NEEDS TO KNOW

A look at traditional knowledge
from a modern perspective

WHAT THE DIALYSIS DOCTOR NEEDS TO KNOW

- I started alone when we knew very little – I had to learn everything.
- That no longer applies: there remains much for the doctor to understand.
- First, the skillset of a good doctor: able to evaluate the patient and the disease state; CKD and the stress of chronic disease.
- Second, to understand the process of dialysis as a scientific phenomenon.

WHAT THE DIALYSIS DOCTOR NEEDS TO KNOW

- Grasp diffusion, convection, and membrane performance.
- Understand internal movement of fluid and solutes – and the limits of dialysis.
- Learn to be a team leader, and a good communicator. Appreciate caring care.
- Understand the principles of water treatment, if not the details.

WHAT THE DIALYSIS DOCTOR NEEDS TO KNOW

- Be a good listener, and be able to assess volume, access function, compliance.
- Be a persuasive teacher. Critical! Patients must learn to manage their condition and regimen.
- Understand the concept of fail-safe and of dialysis machine function - even if he can't operate the machine or do dialysis himself.
- Know medications – be skeptical. No medicine is always better than bad, and often better than good medicine.
- Appreciate cost-effectiveness and choices.

WHAT THE DIALYSIS DOCTOR NEEDS TO KNOW

- If he is the Medical Director, know the regulations and his responsibilities, now defined as effectively, everything about dialysis care.
- Document clearly and responsibly.
- Observe infection control practices.
- Protect everyone with good standing orders.

- Always put the patient first. Care, dammit!

WHAT THE DIALYSIS DOCTOR DOESN'T NEED TO KNOW

- How to properly put on and take off a dialysis patient.
- How to operate water treatment equipment and dialysis machines.
- How to troubleshoot equipment – but must grasp the logic of the process.