



MANITOBA RENAL PROGRAM
NEPHROLOGY
NURSING

kidneyhealth.ca
manitoba renal program

The Manitoba Renal Program offers a variety of rewarding roles for nurses. If you are contemplating a career in nephrology nursing, this brochure will explain many of the options available to you.

ABOUT MANITOBA RENAL PROGRAM

The Manitoba Renal Program (MRP) is a provincial program under the auspices of the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority (WRHA). The MRP was created in 1998 to provide care to all patients receiving dialysis therapy in Manitoba. Since then, the mandate of the MRP has changed to include the broader continuum from kidney health to chronic kidney disease.

The MRP works collaboratively with all Manitoba Regional Health Authorities to provide kidney health promotion and disease prevention; chronic kidney disease care; and end stage kidney disease treatment and management.

The MRP is comprised of professional, interdisciplinary health-care teams delivering quality kidney services.

Our teams work collaboratively to deliver Renal Health Outreach initiatives throughout the province to promote kidney health and prevent kidney disease.

Our Renal Health Clinics deliver care to individuals diagnosed with chronic kidney disease. The goals of care at these clinics are to delay the progression of kidney disease and to treat the complications of the disease.

Our teams work with patients progressing to end stage kidney disease to determine the best treatment options to suit their individual medical needs and lifestyle. Our teams then provide that care.

NURSE ROLES WITHIN THE MRP INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM

Nurses are integral to the MRP interdisciplinary team in the provision of kidney care. Nurses work with individuals across the spectrum of kidney disease, from educating those at risk to improving and maintaining the health of individuals living with end-stage kidney disease.



HEMODIALYSIS NURSE

Hemodialysis nurses provide highly specialized care to patients receiving acute and ongoing chronic hemodialysis. The nurse assesses and monitors a patient before, during and immediately after the dialysis procedure. Patient education regarding self-management when not on dialysis is also a significant role for the hemodialysis nurse.

Hemodialysis nurses are employed in the 20 Renal Health Centres/Hemodialysis units in Manitoba. Please see our website at www.kidneyhealth.ca for a complete list of hemodialysis sites. Throughout the province, the MRP has established standardized equipment, policies, procedures, protocols and guidelines to ensure the nurses provide consistent care.

To become a Hemodialysis Nurse, RNs and LPNs must complete the Manitoba Nephrology Nursing Course. An equivalent course and/or experience may be considered.

Hemodialysis nursing is frequently the entry point for nurses interested in a career in Nephrology Nursing.



Photo courtesy of Fresenius Medical Care.

PERITONEAL DIALYSIS NURSE

Peritoneal Dialysis (PD) Nurses are employed at St. Boniface Hospital, Seven Oaks Hospital and in the community. PD nurses are responsible for delivering peritoneal dialysis care. Specific roles and responsibilities include providing potential patients with information about the modality to help determine if it is appropriate for their needs, teaching patients and family members to administer PD at home, and providing ongoing support and follow-up to the patients in the community (including teleconferencing, home and clinic visits).

Most nurses interested in PD will have completed the MNNC and practiced as a Hemodialysis Nurse for a period of time or will have obtained equivalent education and experience.

HOME HEMODIALYSIS NURSE

Home Hemodialysis Nurses are employed at the Health Sciences Centre and Seven Oaks Hospital. Their specific roles and responsibilities include providing potential patients with information to determine if this is the most appropriate modality; teaching patients and family members to administer hemodialysis at home; and providing ongoing management and follow-up to the patients (including teleconferencing, home and clinic visits).

Most nurses interested in Home Hemodialysis nursing will have completed the MNNC and practiced as a Hemodialysis Nurse for a period of time, or will have obtained equivalent education and experience.

COMMUNITY DIALYSIS NURSE

The Local Renal Health Centres (LRHCs) Program is an innovative program within the MRP that delivers hemodialysis in satellite units throughout rural and northern Manitoba. The purpose of the program is to enhance the quality of life for patients living with end stage renal disease by allowing them to receive treatment and reside as close as possible to their home community.

The LRHCs Program Nurses are situated at the Health Sciences Centre. Their roles and responsibilities include: coordinating patient transfers to and from the LRHCs; participating in weekly LRHCs interdisciplinary clinics; participating in weekly teleconferencing rounds with the LRHCs; maintaining shadow charts for the patients dialyzing in these centres; coordinating medical and non-medical follow up care in Winnipeg; and providing clinical expertise to the LRHC nurses.

To become a Community Dialysis Nurse, individuals must have completed the Manitoba Nephrology Nursing Course and have two years previous experience as a hemodialysis nurse.



RENAL HEALTH NURSE

Renal Health Clinics have been established at Health Sciences Centre, Seven Oaks General Hospital, St. Boniface General Hospital, and Brandon Regional Health Centre. Patients at risk of developing end stage renal disease are referred by their family physicians to a Renal Health Clinic. At the clinic, patients are followed by an interdisciplinary team. Once again, the Renal Health Nurses play an integral role on this team.

This role includes providing education and clinical support to patients in all stages of renal disease. In addition, these nurses closely monitors the patients' renal function and provide the psychosocial support needed as patients near end stage renal disease. The Renal Health Nurses offer ongoing renal education classes to patients and families, health care providers, and the community at large. Focus is placed on health promotion and disease prevention. High risk communities are strategically targeted.

To become a Renal Health Nurse, most nurses will have completed the MNNC and practiced as a Hemodialysis Nurse and/or a Peritoneal Dialysis Nurse for a period of time. Equivalent education and experience may be considered.



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Winnipeg Regional
Health Authority

Caring for Health

Office régional de la
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À l'écoute de notre santé

MRP VISION AND ROLE

Promote Kidney Health,
Prevent Kidney Disease &
Provide Quality Kidney Health Services
to Manitobans