PURPOSE:

1. To provide guidelines for Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C screening and Hepatitis B vaccination in patients with chronic kidney disease (CKD).

POLICY:

1. All patients with eGFR less than 30 ml/min/1.73m² should be screened for Hepatitis B surface antigen, Hepatitis B antibody, and Hepatitis C antibody.

2. Patients should be screened for Hepatitis B surface antigen, Hepatitis B antibody, and Hepatitis C antibody prior to starting dialysis. Results of Hepatitis B virus testing should be known before the patient begins dialysis.

3. Hepatitis B vaccination is recommended for all patients who are susceptible to Hepatitis B (see under "Hepatitis B Screening"). The vaccine should be administered before the patient becomes dialysis-dependent, as response rates to the vaccine are better earlier in CKD. There is no vaccine available for Hepatitis C.

4. Documentation of all vaccines must be submitted to the provincial vaccination database within a month of administration.

5. Patients with temporary acute renal failure should be screened for Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C as above when they begin dialysis. Patients with acute renal failure do not require Hepatitis B vaccination.

6. All patient Hepatitis screening results should be monitored and recorded in a designated section of the health record and in a designated log book.

DEFINITIONS:

HBsAg       Hepatitis B surface antigen
Anti HBs     Antibody to Hepatitis B surface antigen (also called HBsAb)
Anti HCV     Antibody to Hepatitis C virus
ALT          Alanine Aminotransferase
HEPATITIS B SCREENING:  

There are three possible Hepatitis B patient categories:
1. Susceptible
2. Infected
3. Immune

1. **Susceptible Patients (HBsAg and Anti HBs negative):**
   All susceptible patients should receive Hepatitis B vaccine and follow-up testing to determine immune status. Refer to 70.10.02a Appendix A: Algorithm for Hepatitis B Vaccination & Monitoring in Susceptible Patients.

2. **Infected Patients (HBsAg positive):**
   Follow 70.10.02b Appendix B: Schedule for Routine Blood Testing for Hepatitis B & Hepatitis C Infections under “HBsAg positive (i.e. infected patients)”.

3. **Immune Patients (Anti HBs positive):**
   Follow 70.10.02b Appendix B: Schedule for Routine Blood Testing for Hepatitis B & Hepatitis C Infections under “Anti HBs positive (≥10 mIU/mL)”.

HEPATITIS C SCREENING:

There are two possible Hepatitis C patient categories:
1. Susceptible
2. Infected

1. **Susceptible (Anti HCV negative):**
   Follow 70.10.02b Appendix B: Schedule for Routine Blood Testing for Hepatitis B & Hepatitis C Infections under “Anti HCV negative”.

   - Peritoneal Dialysis and Renal Health Clinic patients do not require due to the difficulties in arranging these screening tests at the correct times.

2. **Infected (Anti HCV positive):**
   Anti HCV positive patients are considered to have Hepatitis C infection. No further testing is necessary.
   Follow 70.10.02b Appendix B: Schedule for Routine Blood Testing for Hepatitis B & Hepatitis C Infections under “Anti HCV positive”.

   - There is no reliable method to determine if this infection is acute or chronic.

REFERENCES:


