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. 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.

5. 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 Appendix A: Algorithm for Hepatitis B Vaccination & Monitoring in Susceptible Patients.

2. **Infected Patients (HBsAg positive):**
   Follow 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 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 Appendix B: Schedule for Routine Blood Testing for Hepatitis B & Hepatitis C infections under “Anti HCV negative”.

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

   - Peritoneal Dialysis and Renal Health Clinic patients do not require due to the difficulties in arranging these screening tests at the correct times.
   - There is no reliable method to determine if this infection is acute or chronic.

REFERENCES:


