Preceptor Assignment

Arrived to dialysis center at 0730 and checked in with front desk before meeting with Marie, my preceptor, I spoke with Robert, a technician there. Robert explained the different shifts of the clients coming into the facility, how the dialysis machines worked, and how long procedures usually take. Marie let me observe other technicians attach clients to and removing clients from the machines. I was allowed to feel the thrill and bruit of the graft of one client and use my stethoscope to auscultate another’s graft. Marie allowed me to pass medications to a number of different clients, mostly consisting of administering insulin subcutaneously in clients’ arms and some oral medications. I also performed assessments on multiple clients which included listening to heart and lung sounds, assessing for pedal pulses, and checking for edema in lower extremities. I assisted in moving clients with Hoyer lifts, cleaning chairs and equipment after treatment was completed, setting up machines for next clients, prepare kits for putting clients on and separate kits for taking clients off.

One patient I worked with was there due to diabetic nephropathy. He had several amputations due to complications; BKA of left leg, all toes on his right foot, several fingers on left hand. He also has a history of hypotension leading to loss of consciousness while on dialysis. All patients blood pressure is checked at regular 30 min intervals but his was more closely monitored and when fell below predetermined levels dialysis was paused and rate was adjusted to allow for pressure to rise, preventing loss of consciousness. This intervention was successful throughout his procedure.

I enjoyed the people I was able to work with; Marie, Robert, and Tiffany were all so supportive and patient with me. They were all willing to let me observe and assist in their tasks. The communication between them was precise, complete, and respectful. I enjoyed learning how to setup the machines and being able to feel the thrill of grafts. The only thing I wish was different is that the chairs the clients were in could lift like hospital beds so staff wouldn’t need to bend over so much to put clients on and off the machines.