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Deputy Director General – NHSL and National Hospital Kandy,

All Directors of Teaching Hospitals, Provincial General Hospitals and District General Hospitals,

All Provincial Directors of Health Services,

All Regional Directors of Health Services,

All Medical Superintendents of Base Hospitals,

All Medical Officers in-Charge of Divisional Hospitals,

<u>Dialysis of kidney disease patients with COVID-19 confirmed or having a contact history with a COVID-19 patients</u>

If a patient who has undergoing dialysis in a government or private health institution, and found to have COVID-19, the dialysis center should be closed for 2 weeks. The staff of the unit should be sent for quarantine for 2 weeks from the date of exposure. The patients who gave undergone dialysis in the same session must be quarantined fir two weeks. The dialysis unit, dialysis machines and equipment should be thoroughly cleaned before starting work again.

In such a situation, there are three types of patients to be managed.

1. COVID-19 confirmed patients who are undergoing dialysis

These patients should be transferred to National Institute of Infectious Diseases (NIID) for management and dialysis. If the NIID is not in a position to accept these patients due to non-availability of dialysis facilities, the patient should be dialysed at Base Hospital Homagama.

2. Direct contacts of a COVID-19 confirmed patient, who undergo dialysis

These patients should be quarantined and dialysis should be done at Base Hospital Homagama.

3. Patient who is managed in a dialysis center, which is closed due to identification of COVID-19 patient and the patient has no direct contact with the confirmed COVID-19

patient

These patients should also be arranged dialysis at Base Hospital Homagama for two weeks. If the capacity of the BH Homagama is not sufficient to manage these patients, then they should be arranged dialysis in a government facility which they have already attended for dialysis before. In such cases, these patients from the closed dialysis center should be dialyzed at the last dialysis cycle of the day. None of the other patients should be dialyzed at the same time with these patients. This should happen only for two weeks. At the end of two weeks patient should be transferred back to the dialysis center.

In the management of all three types of patients described above, the staff should wear Personal Protective Equipment as relevant and clean the entire area and equipment thoroughly immediately after the dialysis cycle.

Dr. Anil Jasinghe

Director General of Health Services

Ministry of Health and Indigenous Medical Services

Dr. Anil Jasinghe
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