

CAREERS IN Kidney Services

Patients often move between various kidney replacement treatments and hence various kidney-related areas within the hospital. Therefore, it is important for all nurses to understand the role of each of the units, in the patient care journey.

Why choose a career in Kidney Care?

- Dynamic, exciting, learning opportunities
- Develop critical thinking skills
- Evidence Based Practice (EBP)
- Specialised dialysis training
- Inter-discipline interaction
- Collegial support
- Acquire new advanced skills
- Independent decision making
- Continuous Professional Development

Training and development

- In-services and education days
- Informal education and training
- Unit specific competencies/ training
- Availability of Post-graduate Studies
- Professional renal nursing association (Renal Society of Australasia)
- Attend conferences, meetings and workshops



Peritoneal Dialysis

Nurses educate and monitor patients to safely manage peritoneal dialysis at home. Nursing here involves:

- Educating individuals how to perform a 'PD exchange' safely at home
- Educating about complications and problem-solving
- Promoting self-management
- Monitoring the effectiveness of treatment
- Support patient and their families
- Provide home visits to encourage independence and support learning

Kidney & Transplant Outpatients

The nurses in clinic coordinate appointments, procedures, operations and follow-up patient care after discharge. Nursing care includes:

- Undertaking IV & cytotoxic infusions
- Cannulation for IV medication/ bloods
- Pre-operative and procedural planning and education
- Coordinating OPD tests
- Wound dressings and suture removal
- Provide post kidney transplant care

ICARE² values



Haemodialysis

Nurses undertake the dialysis treatment for those with chronic disease as well as for those that are acutely unwell. This involves:

- Setting up and managing the dialysis machine
- Assessing patients and determining treatment goals
- Cannulating dialysis access/accessing HD CVC
- Managing complications of treatment
- Health teaching
- Ensuring the long-term effectiveness of the dialysis treatment



Home Haemodialysis

The primary role of the home dialysis nurse is to educate and support the patient to undertake haemodialysis at home. This involves:

- Teaching patients about haemodialysis /machine maintenance cannulation
- Teaching patients to problem solve and maintain independence
- Support the social and emotional aspects of patients on life-long therapy
- At home support and follow-up

Kidney Inpatient Ward (4B Kidney)

Nurses in the inpatient ward care for patients that require hospitalisation. This includes:

- Education and nursing care before and after surgery or procedures
- Health teaching and education
- Undertaking peritoneal dialysis exchanges
- Working with the Medical and Allied Health
- Administering medication/infusion
- Undertaking hygiene needs
- Supporting activities of daily living



For further information regarding a career in nursing within Metro South Kidney & Transplant

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