

CAREERS IN RENAL

Renal Nurse Education

Patients often move between various renal replacement treatments and hence various renal 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 Renal?

- 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

Renal Outpatients

The nurses in renal 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 renal transplant care

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/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

Renal Inpatient Ward (4B Renal)

Nurses in the renal 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 renal nursing contact:

Renal Nurse Educator: 3176 5493

Clinical Facilitator/s: 3176 2573 / 3176 6870

Reviewed: 2022

