



Outpatient Dialysis Center Practices Survey

Complete this survey as described in the [Dialysis Event Protocol](#).

Instructions: This survey is only for dialysis centers that provide in-center hemodialysis. If your center offers only home dialysis, please complete the Home Dialysis Center Practices Survey. Complete one survey per center. Surveys are completed for the current year. It is strongly recommended that the survey is completed in February of each year by someone who works in the center and is familiar with current practices within the center. Complete the survey based on the actual practices at the center, not necessarily the center policy, if there are differences. Please submit your responses to the questions in this survey electronically by logging into your NHSN facility.

*required to save as complete

Facility ID #: _____ *Survey Year: _____

ESRD Network #: _____

A. Dialysis Center Information

A.1. General

- *1. What is the ownership of your dialysis center? (choose one)
 - Government
 - Not for profit
 - For profit
- *2. a. What is the location/hospital affiliation of your dialysis center? (choose one)
 - Freestanding
 - Hospital based
 - Freestanding but owned by a hospital
 b. If hospital-based or hospital-owned, is your center affiliated with a teaching hospital? Yes No
- *3. Is your facility accredited by an organization other than CMS? Yes No
 - a. If yes, specify (choose one)
 - Joint Commission
 - National Dialysis Accreditation Commission (NDAC)
 - Other (specify) _____
- *4. a. What types of dialysis services does your center offer? (select all that apply)
 - In-center daytime hemodialysis
 - In-center nocturnal hemodialysis
 - Peritoneal dialysis
 - Home hemodialysis
 b. What patient population does your center serve? (select one)
 - Adult only
 - Pediatric only
 - Mixed: adult and pediatric
- *5. How many in-center hemodialysis stations does your center have? _____
- *6. Is your center part of a group or chain of dialysis centers? Yes No
 - a. If yes, what is the name of the group or chain? _____
- *7. Do you (the person primarily responsible for collecting data for this survey) perform patient care in the dialysis center? Yes No
- *8. Is there someone at your dialysis center in charge of infection control? Yes No
 - a. If yes, which best describes this person? (if >1 person in charge, select all that apply)
 - Hospital-affiliated or other infection control practitioner comes to our unit
 - Dialysis nurse or nurse manager
 - Dialysis center administrator or director
 - Dialysis education specialist
 - Patient care technician
 - Other, specify: _____

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Public reporting burden of this collection of information is estimated to average 1.75 hours per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden to CDC, Reports Clearance Officer, 1600 Clifton Rd., MS D-74, Atlanta, GA 30333, ATTN: PRA (0920-0666).



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- *9. Does your center provide dialysis services within long-term care facilities (e.g., staff-assisted dialysis in nursing homes or skilled nursing facilities; *not* long-term acute care hospitals)? Yes No
- a. If yes, in how many long-term care facilities? _____
- *10. Is there a dedicated vascular access nurse/coordinator (either full or part-time) at your center? Yes No

A.2. Isolation and Screening

- *11. Does your center have capacity to isolate patients with hepatitis B?
 Yes, use hepatitis B isolation room Yes, use hepatitis B isolation area No hepatitis B isolation
- *12. Are patients routinely isolated or cohorted for treatment within your center for any of the following conditions? (if yes, select all that apply)
 No, none Hepatitis C Active tuberculosis (TB disease)
 Vancomycin-resistant *Enterococcus* (VRE) *Clostridioides difficile* (C. diff.)
 Methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) Other, specify: _____
- *13. Are patients routinely assessed for conditions that might warrant additional infection control precautions, such as infected wounds with drainage, fecal incontinence or diarrhea? Yes No
a) If yes, when does this assessment most often occur? (select one)
 Before the patient enters the treatment area (e.g., at check-in or in the waiting room)
 Once the patient is seated in the treatment station
 Other (specify) _____
- *14. Does your center routinely screen patients for latent tuberculosis infection (LTBI) on admission to your center? Yes No

A.3. Patient Records and Surveillance

- *15. Does your center maintain records of the **station** where each patient received their hemodialysis treatment for every treatment session? Yes No
- *16. Does your center maintain records of the **machine** used for each patient's hemodialysis treatment for every treatment session? Yes No
- *17. If a patient from your center was hospitalized, how often is your center able to determine if a bloodstream infection contributed to their hospital admission?
 Always Often Sometimes Rarely Never N/A – not pursued
- *18. How often is your center able to obtain a patient's microbiology lab records from a hospitalization?
 Always Often Sometimes Rarely Never N/A – not pursued
- *19. Which of the following infections in your peritoneal dialysis patients does your center routinely track? (select all that apply)
 Peritonitis Exit site infection Tunnel infection Other (specify) _____
- *20. Which of the following events in your home hemodialysis patients does your center routinely track? (select all that apply)
 Bloodstream infection Needle/access dislodgement Other (specify) _____
 Vascular access site infection Air embolism
 Catheter breakage or bloodline separation

Please respond to the following questions based on information from your center for the first week of February (applies to current or most recent February relative to current date).

B. Patient and staff census

- *21. Was your center operational during the first week of February? Yes No
- *22. How many MAINTENANCE, NON-TRANSIENT dialysis **PATIENTS** were assigned to your center during the first week of February? _____
Of these, indicate the number who received:
a. In-center hemodialysis: _____
b. Home hemodialysis: _____
c. Peritoneal dialysis: _____



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- *23. How many acute kidney injury (AKI) patients received hemodialysis in your center during the first week of February? _____
- *24. How many **PATIENT CARE** staff (full time, part time, or affiliated with) worked in your center during the first week of February? *Include only staff who had direct contact with dialysis patients or equipment.* _____
Of these, how many were in each of the following categories?
- | | |
|--------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| a. Nurse/nurse assistant: _____ | e. Dietitian: _____ |
| b. Dialysis patient-care technician: _____ | f. Physicians/physician assistant: _____ |
| c. Dialysis biomedical technician: _____ | g. Nurse practitioner: _____ |
| d. Social worker: _____ | h. Other: _____ |

C. Vaccines

- *25. Of the dialysis patients counted in question 22, how many received:
- At least 3 doses of hepatitis B vaccine (ever)? _____
 - The influenza (flu) vaccine for the current/most recent flu season? _____
 - At least one dose of pneumococcal vaccine (ever)? _____
- *26. Of the in-center hemodialysis patients counted in question 22a, how many received:
- At least 3 doses of hepatitis B vaccine (ever)? _____
 - The influenza (flu) vaccine for the current/most recent flu season? _____
 - At least one dose of pneumococcal vaccine (ever)? _____
- *27. Of the patient care staff members counted in question 24, how many received:
- At least 3 doses of hepatitis B vaccine (ever)? _____
 - The influenza (flu) vaccine for the current/most recent flu season? _____
- *28. Does your center use standing orders to allow nurses to administer any of the vaccines mentioned above to patients without a specific physician order? Yes No
- *29. Which type of pneumococcal vaccine does your center offer to **patients**? (choose one)
- Polysaccharide (i.e., PPSV23) only
 - Conjugate (e.g., PCV13) only
 - Both polysaccharide & conjugate
 - Neither offered

D. Hepatitis B and C

D.1. Hepatitis B

- *30. Of the MAINTENANCE, NON-TRANSIENT in-center hemodialysis PATIENTS from question 22a:
- How many were hepatitis B surface **ANTIGEN** (HBsAg) positive in the first week of February? _____
 - Of these patients who were hepatitis B surface **ANTIGEN** (HBsAg) positive in the first week of February, how many were positive when first admitted to your center? _____
 - How many patients converted from hepatitis B surface ANTIGEN (HBsAg) negative to positive during the prior 12 months (*i.e., in the past year, how many patients had newly acquired hepatitis B virus infection; not as a result of vaccination*)? *Do not include patients who were antigen positive before they were first dialyzed in your center.* _____
- *31. In the past year, has your center had ≥ 1 hemodialysis patient who reverse seroconverted (i.e., had evidence of resolved hepatitis B infection followed by reappearance of hepatitis B surface antigen)? Yes No

D.2. Hepatitis C

- *32. Does your center routinely screen hemodialysis patients for **hepatitis C** antibody (anti-HCV) on admission to your center? (*Note: This is NOT hepatitis B core antibody*) Yes No

D.2. Hepatitis C (continued)

- *33. Does your center routinely screen hemodialysis patients for hepatitis C antibody (anti-HCV) Yes No at any other time?
If yes, how frequently?
 Twice annually Annually Other, specify: _____
- *34. Of the MAINTENANCE, NON-TRANSIENT in-center hemodialysis patients counted in question 22a,
a. How many were hepatitis C antibody positive in the first week of February? _____
i. Of these patients who were hepatitis C antibody positive in the first week of February, how many were positive when first admitted to your center? _____
b. How many patients converted from hepatitis C antibody negative to positive during the prior 12 months (*i.e., in the past year, how many patients had newly acquired hepatitis C infection*)? *Do not include patients who were anti-HCV positive before they were first dialyzed in your center.* _____

E. Dialysis Policies and Practices

E.1. Dialyzer Reuse

- *35. Does your center reuse dialyzers for any patients? Yes No
If yes,
a. Of the MAINTENANCE, NON-TRANSIENT in-center hemodialysis patients counted in 22a, how many of them participate in dialyzer reuse? _____
b. Does your center routinely test reverse osmosis (R.O.) water from the reuse room for Yes No culture and endotoxin whenever a reuse patient has a pyrogenic reaction?
c. Of all reused dialyzers at your center, how many undergo refrigeration prior to reprocessing?
 All Most Some Few None
d. Is there a limit to the number of times a dialyzer is used?
 Yes (indicate number): _____
 No limit as long as dialyzer meets certain criteria (e.g., passes pressure leak test, etc.)
e. Of all reused dialyzers in your center, how many of them have sealed (non-removable) header caps?
 All Most Some Few None
f. Where are dialyzers reprocessed?
 Dialyzers are reprocessed at our center only
 Dialyzers are transported to an off-site facility for reprocessing only
 Both at our center and off-site
If any dialyzers are reprocessed at the facility,
i. How is dialyzer header cleaning performed? (select all that apply)
 Automated machine (e.g., RenaClear® System)
 Spray device (e.g., ASSIST® header cleaner)
 Insertion of twist-tie or other instrument to break up clots
 Disassemble dialyzer to manually clean
 Other, specify: _____
 No separate header cleaning step performed
ii. How are dialyzers reprocessed?
 Automated reprocessing equipment
 Manual reprocessing

E.2. Water/Dialysate

- *36. What type of dialysate is used for in-center hemodialysis patients at your center? (choose one)
 Conventional
 Ultrapure

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E.2. Water/Dialysate (continued)	
*37.	<p>Does your center routinely test the following whenever a patient has a pyrogenic reaction?</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">a. Patient blood culture <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">b. Dialysate from the patient's dialysis machine <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>
E.3. Priming Practices	
*38.	<p>Does your center use hemodialysis machine Waste Handling Option (WHO) ports? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>
*39.	<p>Are any patients in your center "bled onto the machine" (i.e., where blood is allowed to reach or almost reach the prime waste receptacle or WHO port)? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>
E.4. Injection Practices	
*40.	<p>What form of erythropoiesis stimulating agent (ESA) is most often used in your center?</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;"><input type="checkbox"/> Single-dose vial <input type="checkbox"/> Multi-dose vial <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-packaged syringe <input type="checkbox"/> N/A</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">a. Is ESA from one single-dose vial or syringe administered to more than one patient? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>
*41.	<p>Where are medications <u>most commonly</u> drawn into syringes to prepare for patient administration? (choose one)</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;"><input type="checkbox"/> At the individual dialysis stations</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;"><input type="checkbox"/> On a mobile medication cart within the treatment area</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;"><input type="checkbox"/> At a fixed location within the patient treatment area (e.g., at nurses' station)</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;"><input type="checkbox"/> At a fixed location removed from the patient treatment area (not a room)</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;"><input type="checkbox"/> In a separate medication room</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;"><input type="checkbox"/> In a pharmacy</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;"><input type="checkbox"/> Other, specify: _____</p>
*42.	<p>Do technicians administer any IV medications or infusates (e.g., heparin, saline) in your center? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>
*43.	<p>What form of saline flush is most commonly used?</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;"><input type="checkbox"/> Manufacturer pre-filled saline syringes</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;"><input type="checkbox"/> Flushes are drawn from single-use saline vials</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;"><input type="checkbox"/> Flushes are drawn from multi-dose saline vials</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;"><input type="checkbox"/> Flushes are drawn from the patient's designated saline bag used for dialysis</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;"><input type="checkbox"/> Flushes are drawn from the patient's dialysis circuit</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;"><input type="checkbox"/> Flushes are drawn from a common saline bag used for all patients</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;"><input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify): _____</p>
E.5. Antibiotic Use	
*44.	<p>Does your center use the following means to restrict or ensure appropriate antibiotic use?</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">a. Have a written policy on antibiotic use <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">b. Formulary restrictions <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">c. Antibiotic use approval process <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">d. Automatic stop orders for antibiotics <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>
*45.	<p>In your center, how often are antibiotics administered for a suspected bloodstream infection <u>before</u> blood cultures are drawn (or without performing blood cultures)?</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;"><input type="checkbox"/> Always <input type="checkbox"/> Often <input type="checkbox"/> Sometimes <input type="checkbox"/> Rarely <input type="checkbox"/> Never</p>

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E.6. Prevention Activities

- *46. Has your center participated in any national or regional infection prevention-related initiatives in the past year? Yes No
- a. If yes, what is the primary focus of the initiative(s)? (if >1 initiative, select all that apply)
- Catheter reduction
 - Hand hygiene
 - Bloodstream infection prevention
 - Patient education/engagement for infection prevention
 - Increase vaccination rates
 - Decrease/improve use of antibiotics
 - Improve general infection control practices
 - Improve culture of safety
 - Other, specify: _____
- b. If yes, is your center actively participating in any of the following prevention initiatives (select all that apply):
- CDC Making Dialysis Safer for Patients Coalition – facility-level participation
 - CDC Making Dialysis Safer for Patients Coalition – corporate- or other organization-level participation
 - The Standardizing Care to improve Outcomes in Pediatric End Stage Renal Disease (SCOPE) Collaborative Peritoneal Dialysis Catheter-related Infection Project
 - SCOPE Collaborative Hemodialysis Access-related Infection Project
 - None of the above
- *47. In the past year, has your center’s medical director participated in a leadership or educational activity as part of the American Society of Nephrology’s (ASN) Nephrologists Transforming Dialysis Safety (NTDS) Initiative? Yes No
- *48. Does your center follow CDC-recommended Core Interventions to prevent bloodstream infections in hemodialysis patients?
- Yes, all Yes, some No, none
- *49. Does your center perform hand hygiene audits of staff monthly (or more frequently)? Yes No
- *50. Does your center perform observations of staff vascular access care and catheter accessing practices quarterly (or more frequently)? Yes No
- *51. Does your center perform staff competency assessments for vascular access care and catheter accessing annually (or more frequently)? Yes No

E.7. Peritoneal Dialysis

- *52. For **peritoneal dialysis catheters**, is antimicrobial ointment routinely applied to the exit site during dressing change? Yes No
- a. If yes, what type of ointment is most commonly used? (select one)
- Gentamicin
 - Mupirocin
 - Povidone-iodine
 - Bacitracin/polymyxin B (e.g., Polysporin®)
 - Bacitracin/neomycin/polymyxin B (triple antibiotic)
 - Bacitracin/gramicidin/polymyxin B (Polysporin® Triple)
 - Other, specify: _____

F. Vascular Access

F.1. General Vascular Access Information

- *53. Of the MAINTENANCE, NON-TRANSIENT hemodialysis patients from question 22 (22a + 22b), how many received hemodialysis through each of the following access types during the first week of February?
- a. AV fistula: _____
 - b. AV graft: _____
 - c. Tunneled central line: _____
 - d. Nontunneled central line: _____
 - e. Other vascular access device (e.g., catheter-graft hybrid): _____

F.2. Arteriovenous (AV) Fistulas or Grafts

- *54. Before prepping the fistula or graft site for rope-ladder cannulation, what is the site most often cleansed with?
- Soap and water Alcohol-based hand rub Antiseptic wipes Other, specify: _____ Nothing
- *55. Before rope-ladder cannulation of a fistula or graft, what is the site most often prepped with? (select one)
- Alcohol
 - Chlorhexidine without alcohol
 - Chlorhexidine with alcohol (e.g., Chloarprep™, PDI Prevantics®)
 - Povidone-iodine (or tincture of iodine)
 - Sodium hypochlorite solution (e.g., ExSept®, Alcavis) without alcohol
 - Sodium hypochlorite solution (e.g., ExSept®, Alcavis) followed by alcohol
 - Other, specify: _____
 - Nothing
- a. What form of this skin antiseptic is used to prep fistula/graft sites?
- Multiuse bottle (e.g., poured onto gauze)
 - Pre-packaged swabstick/spongestick
 - Pre-packaged pad
 - Other, specify: _____
 - N/A
- *56. How many of the fistula patients in your center undergo buttonhole cannulation?
- All Most Some None
- If any,
- a. Which fistula patients undergo buttonhole cannulation?
- In-center hemodialysis patients only
 - Home hemodialysis patients only
 - Both
- If any in-center hemodialysis patients undergo buttonhole cannulation,
- b. When buttonhole cannulation is performed for in-center hemodialysis patients:
- i. Who most often performs it?
 - Nurse
 - Patient (self-cannulation)
 - Technician
 - Other, specify: _____

F.2. Arteriovenous (AV) Fistulas or Grafts (continued)

- ii. Before cannulation, what is the buttonhole site most often prepped with? (select the one most commonly used)
- Alcohol
 - Chlorhexidine without alcohol
 - Chlorhexidine with alcohol (e.g., Chloarprep™, PDI Prevantics®)
 - Povidone-iodine (or tincture of iodine)
 - Sodium hypochlorite solution (e.g., ExSept®, Alcavis) without alcohol
 - Sodium hypochlorite solution (e.g., ExSept®, Alcavis) followed by alcohol
 - Other, specify: _____
 - Nothing
- iii. Is antimicrobial ointment (e.g., mupirocin) routinely used at buttonhole cannulation sites to **prevent** infection? Yes No

F.3. Hemodialysis Catheters

- *57. Before accessing the hemodialysis catheter, what are the **catheter hubs** most commonly prepped with? (select one)
- Alcohol
 - Chlorhexidine without alcohol
 - Chlorhexidine with alcohol (e.g., Chloarprep™, PDI Prevantics®)
 - Povidone-iodine (or tincture of iodine)
 - Sodium hypochlorite solution (e.g., Alcavis) without alcohol
 - Sodium hypochlorite solution (e.g., Alcavis) followed by alcohol
 - Other, specify: _____
 - Nothing
- a. What form of this antiseptic/disinfectant is used to prep the catheter hubs?
- Multiuse bottle (e.g., poured onto gauze)
 - Pre-packaged swabstick/spongstick
 - Pre-packaged pad
 - Other, specify: _____
 - N/A
- *58. Are hemodialysis catheter hubs routinely scrubbed after the cap is removed and before accessing the catheter (or before accessing the catheter via a needleless connector device, if one is used)? Yes No
- *59. When the hemodialysis catheter dressing is changed, what is the exit site (i.e., place where the catheter enters the skin) most commonly prepped with? (select one)
- Alcohol
 - Chlorhexidine without alcohol
 - Chlorhexidine with alcohol (e.g., Chloarprep™, PDI Prevantics®)
 - Povidone-iodine (or tincture of iodine)
 - Sodium hypochlorite solution (e.g., ExSept®, Alcavis) without alcohol
 - Sodium hypochlorite solution (e.g., ExSept®, Alcavis) followed by alcohol
 - Other, specify: _____
 - Nothing

F.3. Hemodialysis Catheters (continued)

- a. What form of this antiseptic/disinfectant is used at the exit site?
- Multiuse bottle (e.g., poured onto gauze)
 - Pre-packaged swabstick/spongystick
 - Pre-packaged pad
 - Other, specify: _____
 - N/A
- *60. For **hemodialysis catheters**, is antimicrobial ointment routinely applied to the exit site during dressing change?
- Yes No N/A – chlorhexidine-impregnated dressing is routinely used
- a. If yes, what type of ointment is most commonly used? (select one)
- Bacitracin/gramicidin/polymyxin B (Polysporin® Triple) Gentamicin
 - Bacitracin/polymyxin B (e.g., Polysporin®) Mupirocin
 - Bacitracin/neomycin/polymyxin B (triple antibiotic) Povidone-iodine
 - Other, specify: _____
- *61. What is the job classification of staff members who most often perform hemodialysis catheter care (i.e., access catheters or perform exit site care) in your center? (select one)
- Nurse Technician Other, specify: _____
- *62. Are antimicrobial lock solutions used to **prevent** hemodialysis catheter infections in your center?
- Yes, for all catheter patients Yes, for some catheter patients No
- a. If yes, which lock solution is most commonly used? (select one)
- Sodium citrate Taurolidine
 - Gentamicin Ethanol
 - Vancomycin Multi-component lock solution or other, specify: _____
- *63. Are needleless closed connector devices (e.g., Tego®, Q-Syte™) used on hemodialysis catheters in your center? Yes No
- a. If yes, for which patients:
- In-center hemodialysis patients only
 - Home hemodialysis patients only
 - Both
- *64. Are any of the following routinely used for hemodialysis catheters in your center? (select all that apply)
- Chlorhexidine dressing (e.g., Biopatch®, Tegaderm™ CHG) Yes No
 - Other antimicrobial dressing (e.g., silver-impregnated) Yes No
 - Antiseptic-impregnated catheter cap/port protector:
 - 3M™ Curoc™ Disinfecting Port Protectors Yes No
 - ClearGuard® HD end caps Yes No
 - Antimicrobial-impregnated hemodialysis catheters Yes No
- *65. Does your center provide hemodialysis catheter patients with supplies to allow for changing catheter dressings outside the dialysis center?
- Yes, routinely for all or most patients with a catheter Yes, only for select patients with a catheter No
- *66. a. Does your center educate patients with hemodialysis catheters on how to shower with the catheter? (select the best response)
- Yes, routinely for all or most patients with a catheter No, patients with hemodialysis catheters are instructed against showering
 - Yes, only for select patients with a catheter No, education and instructions are not provided on this topic



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F.3. Hemodialysis Catheters (continued)

b. Does your center provide hemodialysis catheter patients with a protective catheter cover (e.g., Shower Shield®, Cath Dry™) to allow them to shower?

Yes, routinely for all or most patients with a catheter

Yes, only for select patients with a catheter

No

Comments:

Disclaimer: Use of trade names and commercial sources is for identification only and does not imply endorsement.