INTRODUCTION

MEETING THE CHALLENGES OF INFECTION IN PEDIATRIC PERITONEAL DIALYSIS

Infection remains the most significant cause of morbidity in children receiving chronic peritoneal dialysis (PD), and it is the leading cause of hospitalization and the need to change dialysis modality. For those reasons, the International Society for Peritoneal Dialysis published, in 2000, the initial pediatric-specific guidelines designed to address the diagnosis and treatment of peritonitis in children receiving PD. Those guidelines were subsequently implemented worldwide, and outcomes data were collected. The latter data, together with the results of additional research and clinical experiences from throughout the nephrology community, form the basis for the present "Consensus Guidelines for the Prevention and Treatment of Catheter-Related Infections and Peritonitis in Pediatric Patients Receiving Peritoneal Dialysis: 2012 Update." Created by an international work group with representation from pediatric nephrology, pediatric

dialysis nursing, and pediatric infectious diseases, the guidelines underwent a thorough peer review and are, we believe, the most comprehensive set of recommendations ever written pertaining to infection-related complications in children receiving PD.

In a departure from the original guidelines, the present document emphasizes prevention of infection as a primary goal; however, when infection occurs, a variety of guideline statements and associated rationales are there to help guide therapy. In turn, it is the hope of our work group that this document will prove to be a valuable tool for the pediatric dialysis community and will not only contribute to improved patient care, but will also serve as a stimulus for continued study and the generation of new knowledge.

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