

# WHAT THE MEDICAL DIRECTOR NEEDS FROM STAFF TO IMPROVE PATIENT OUTCOMES

Leslie P. Wong, MD, MBA, FASN  
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8:00-9:00 AM



## DISCLOSURES

Employee of Cleveland Clinic

Consultant for Fresenius Medical Therapies

Board of Directors for Nephrologists Transforming Dialysis Safety



TOGETHER LET'S KEEP  
**DIALYSIS PATIENTS**  
SAFE

**0**

**DAYS SINCE LAST  
BLOODSTREAM  
INFECTION**

Our last bloodstream infection was on

To learn more about dialysis safety, visit [www.cdc.gov/dialysis](http://www.cdc.gov/dialysis)

 MAKING DIALYSIS SAFER COALITION

 ASN

 NTDS  
NEPHROLOGISTS  
TRANSFORMING  
DIALYSIS SAFETY

<https://www.asn-online.org>

## NEPHROLOGY IN THE US: BY THE NUMBERS

Patients with Kidney Failure	Dialysis Facilities	Adult Nephrologists
<p>ESRD Patients Treated <b>660,000</b></p> <p>Dialysis Patients <b>468,000</b></p> <p>Functioning Kidney Transplant  <b>193,000</b></p>	<p>Total Dialysis Facilities <b>6,479</b></p> <p>Hospital-based Dialysis Facilities  <b>617</b></p>	<p>Direct Patient Care <b>10,108 (92.9%)</b></p> <p>Administration <b>185 (1.7%)</b></p> <p>Medical Teaching <b>183 (1.7%)</b></p> <p>Medical Research <b>409 (3.8%)</b></p> <p><b>TOTAL 10,883 (100.0%)</b></p>

Approximately 25%-33% of practicing nephrologists are medical directors

# COMPLEXITY IN HEALTHCARE IS GETTING WORSE

Patients see a variety of clinicians for their care

- Medicare patients see an average of 7 physicians split between 4 practice locations

Involvement by multiple providers tends to blur accountability

- 75% of hospitalized patients cannot identify who is in charge
- 23% of ESRD patients did not know who their nephrologist is



MISTAKES  
FRAGMENTED CARE  
MISSED PREVENTION

WASTES \$185 BILLION PER  
YEAR IN THE U.S.

TABLE S-1 Estimated Sources of Excess Costs in Health Care (2009)

Category	Sources	Estimate of Excess Costs
Unnecessary Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overuse—beyond evidence-established levels</li> <li>• Discretionary use beyond benchmarks</li> <li>• Unnecessary choice of higher-cost services</li> </ul>	\$210 billion
Inefficiently Delivered Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mistakes—errors, preventable complications</li> <li>• Care fragmentation</li> <li>• Unnecessary use of higher-cost providers</li> <li>• Operational inefficiencies at care delivery sites</li> </ul>	\$130 billion
Excess Administrative Costs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Insurance paperwork costs beyond benchmarks</li> <li>• Insurers' administrative inefficiencies</li> <li>• Inefficiencies due to care documentation requirements</li> </ul>	\$190 billion
Prices That Are Too High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Service prices beyond competitive benchmarks</li> <li>• Product prices beyond competitive benchmarks</li> </ul>	\$105 billion
Missed Prevention Opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Primary prevention</li> <li>• Secondary prevention</li> <li>• Tertiary prevention</li> </ul>	\$55 billion
Fraud	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All sources—payers, clinicians, patients</li> </ul>	\$75 billion

SOURCE: Adapted with permission from IOM, 2010.

## IMPROVING PATIENT-CENTEREDNESS

Informed and engaged patients invested in their care do better

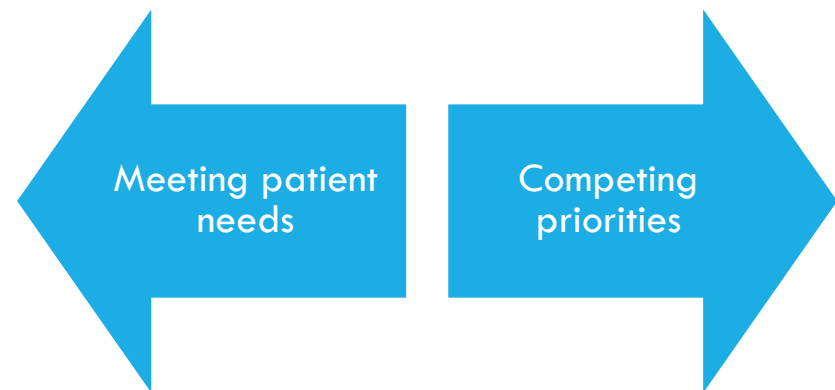
Patients do not understand risks and benefits of treatment

7 of 10 adults have difficulty making a doctor's appointment

5 of 10 adults don't get timely test results and coordination of care

Getting the right human being on the phone is sometimes impossible

Don't get sick on Fri-Sun or at night



## BARRIERS TO (SELF) MANAGEMENT IN CKD

- ✓ Denial
- ✓ Depression
- ✓ Poor coping
- ✓ Low literacy
- ✓ Low cognition
- ✓ Poor patient education
- ✓ Prolonged dependence on family or others
- ✓ Lack of integrated health systems



Source: Google images (labeled for noncommercial reuse)



## DIALYSIS INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM

Consists of, at minimum:

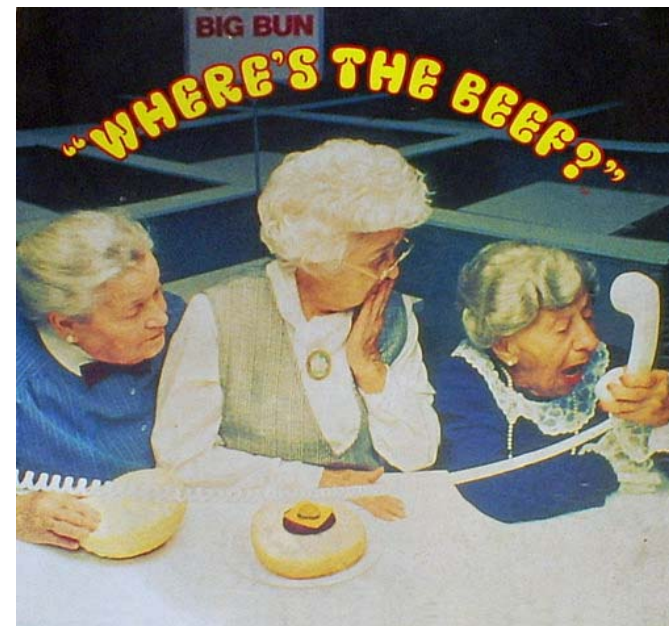
The patient or patient's designee

Registered nurse

Physician treating the patient for ESRD

Social worker

Dietitian





# WHAT TECHNICIANS NEED TO MASTER

Principles of dialysis

Care of ESRD patients, interpersonal skills

Dialysis procedures and documentation

Possible complications of dialysis

Water treatment and dialysate preparation

Infection control

Patient and staff safety

Dialyzer reprocessing, if applicable



# WHAT DIALYSIS TECHNICIANS ARE/DO

Technicians are a partner, not an assistant in delivering life-saving care

Must master a procedurally complex, intensive, dangerous process

Requires immediate critical thinking and quick reactions

Understanding of medication dosing (heparin, saline)

Applying physiology (diffusion, ultrafiltration, electrolyte balance)

Handle complex technology, equipment, water purification systems

Longitudinal relationships with patients and families

# Lifeline

1. A line used for life-saving, typically used to rescue someone in difficulty
2. (in palmistry) predicts how long someone will live

## ESRD PATIENT LIFELINES

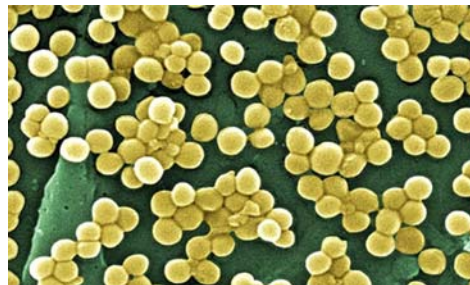


## CAUSE OF DEATH IN DIALYSIS PATIENTS

3 in 10 patient deaths are from sudden death



1 in 10 patient deaths are from infection



## CAN WE SAVE PATIENTS FROM DROWNING?



Survey of ESRD patients admitted to the hospital

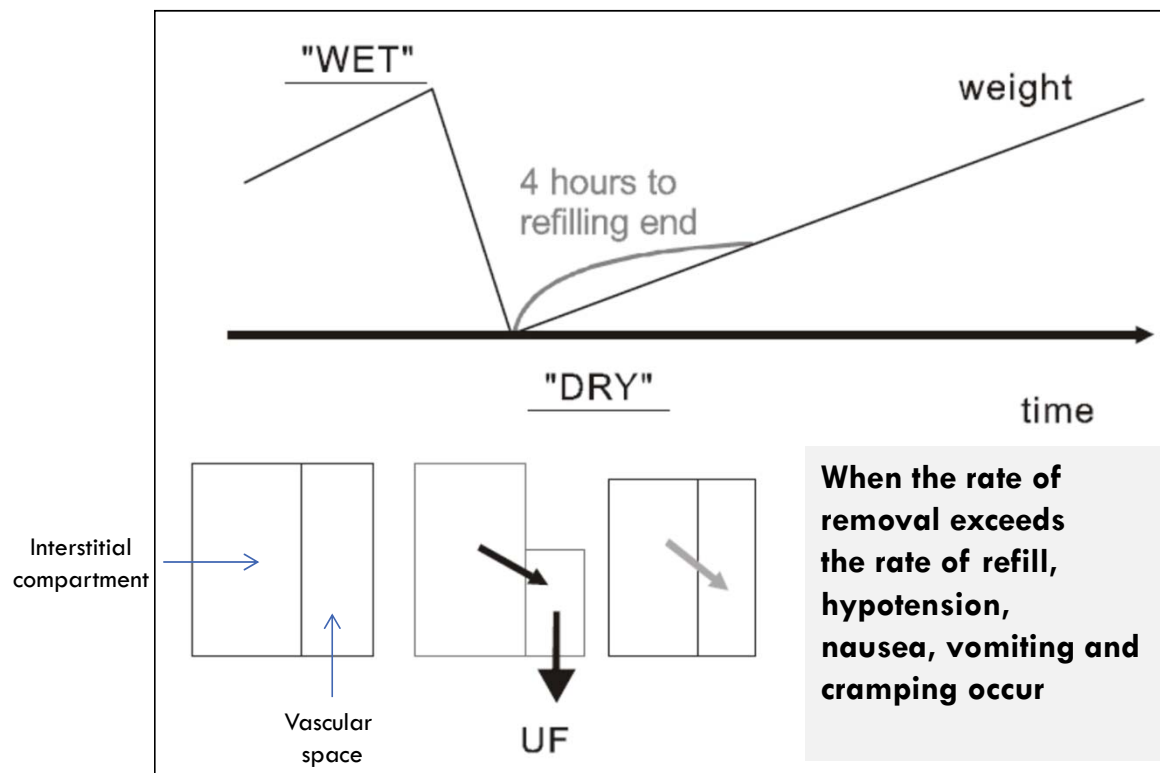
33% of patients did not know their dry weight

90% of patients reported that fluid restriction was important

Yet 60% admitted to noncompliance with fluid intake

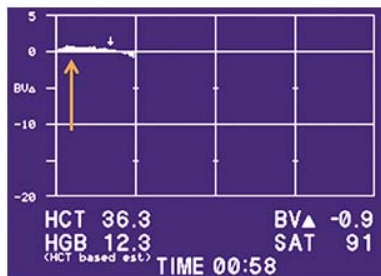


# THE "UNPHYSIOLOGY" OF UF IN HEMODIALYSIS



## ONLINE FEEDBACK ABOUT UF RATE

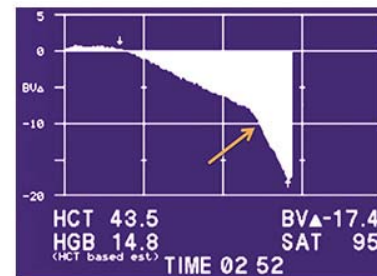
### Crit-Line Monitor



#### A. Profile

Flat or Positive Slope-Illustrates that ultrafiltration and plasma refilling were equivalent during treatment. Suggests an increased ultrafiltration rate may be appropriate.

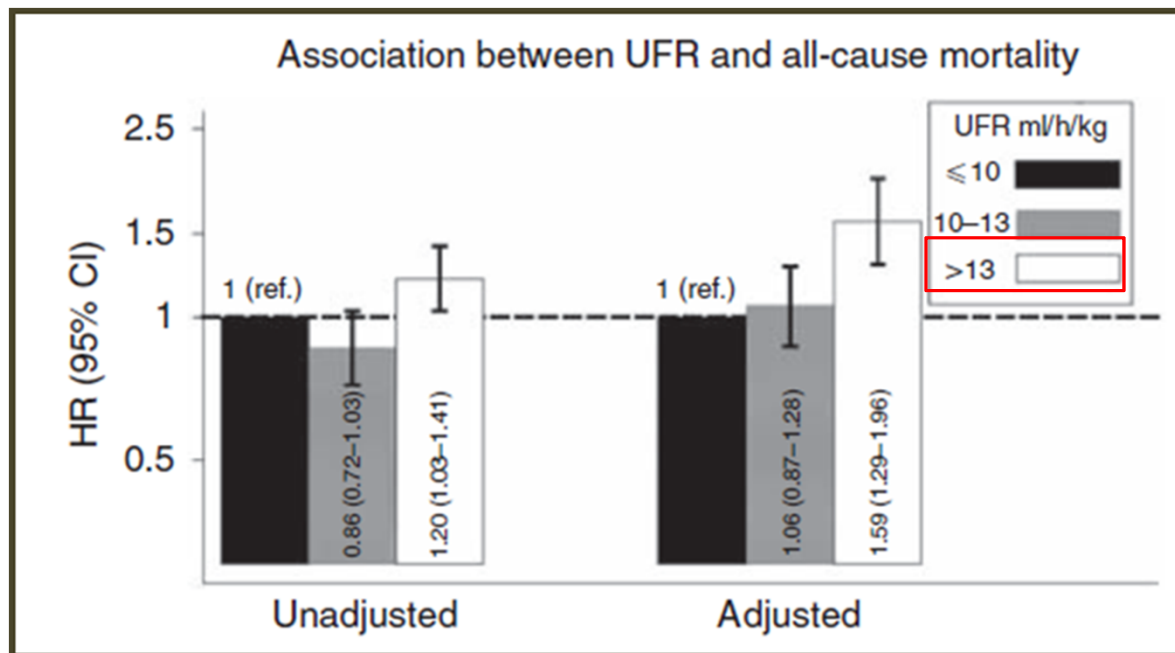
### Crit-Line Monitor



#### C. Profile

Steep Slope-Represents a rapid decrease in blood volume which may make the patient likely to experience some type of intradialytic morbidity such as lightheadedness, nausea, vomiting, cramping or hypotension.

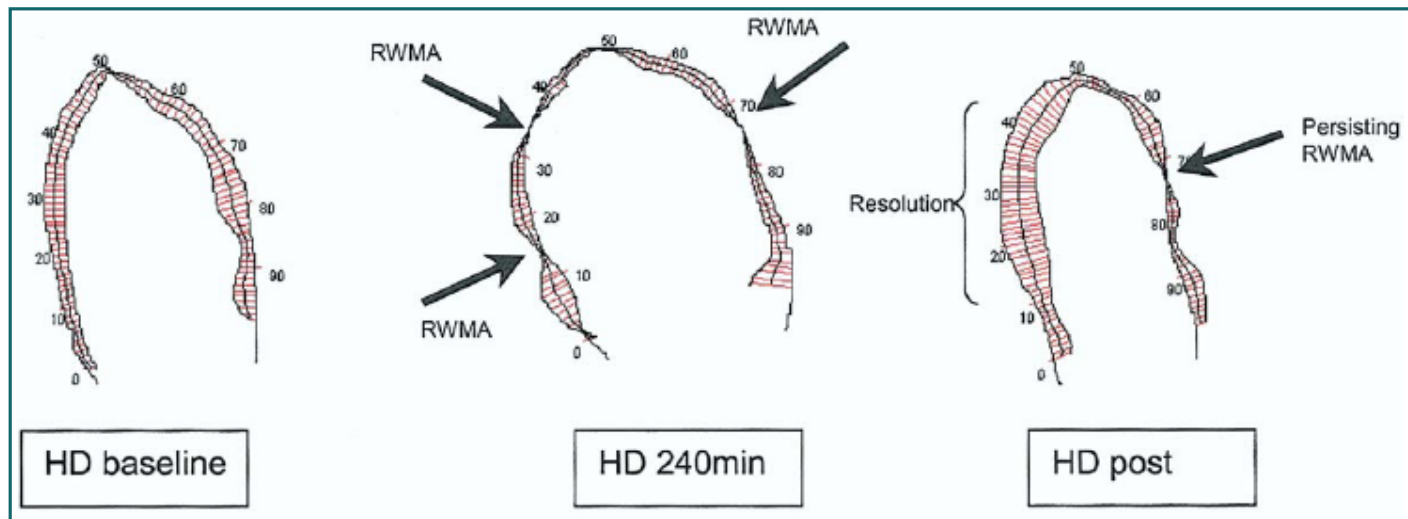
# HIGH UF RATE (>13ML/KG/HR) AND INCREASED DEATH IN HEMO STUDY



HR for all cause death  
1.59 (95% CI 1.29-1.96)

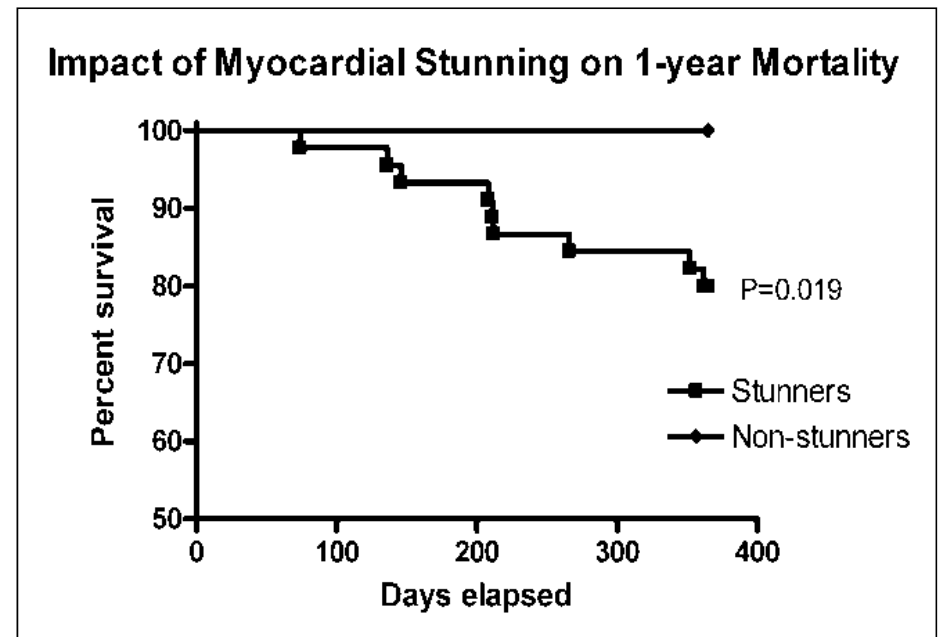
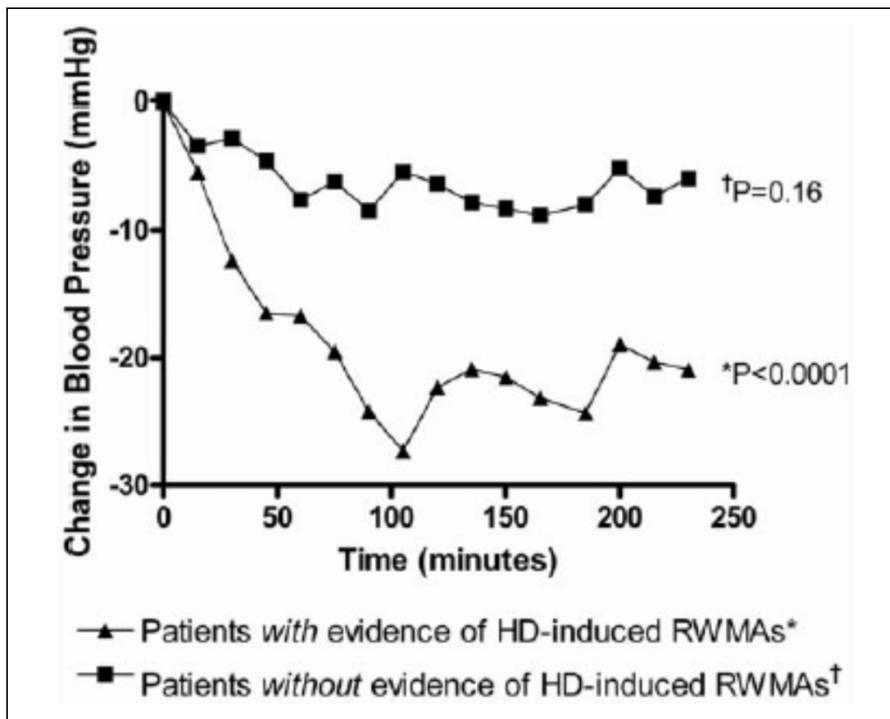
HR for CV mortality  
1.71 (95% CI 1.23-2.38)

# MYOCARDIAL STUNNING DURING HD



Wall motion abnormalities seen during intradialytic ECHO

# MYOCARDIAL STUNNING AND MORTALITY

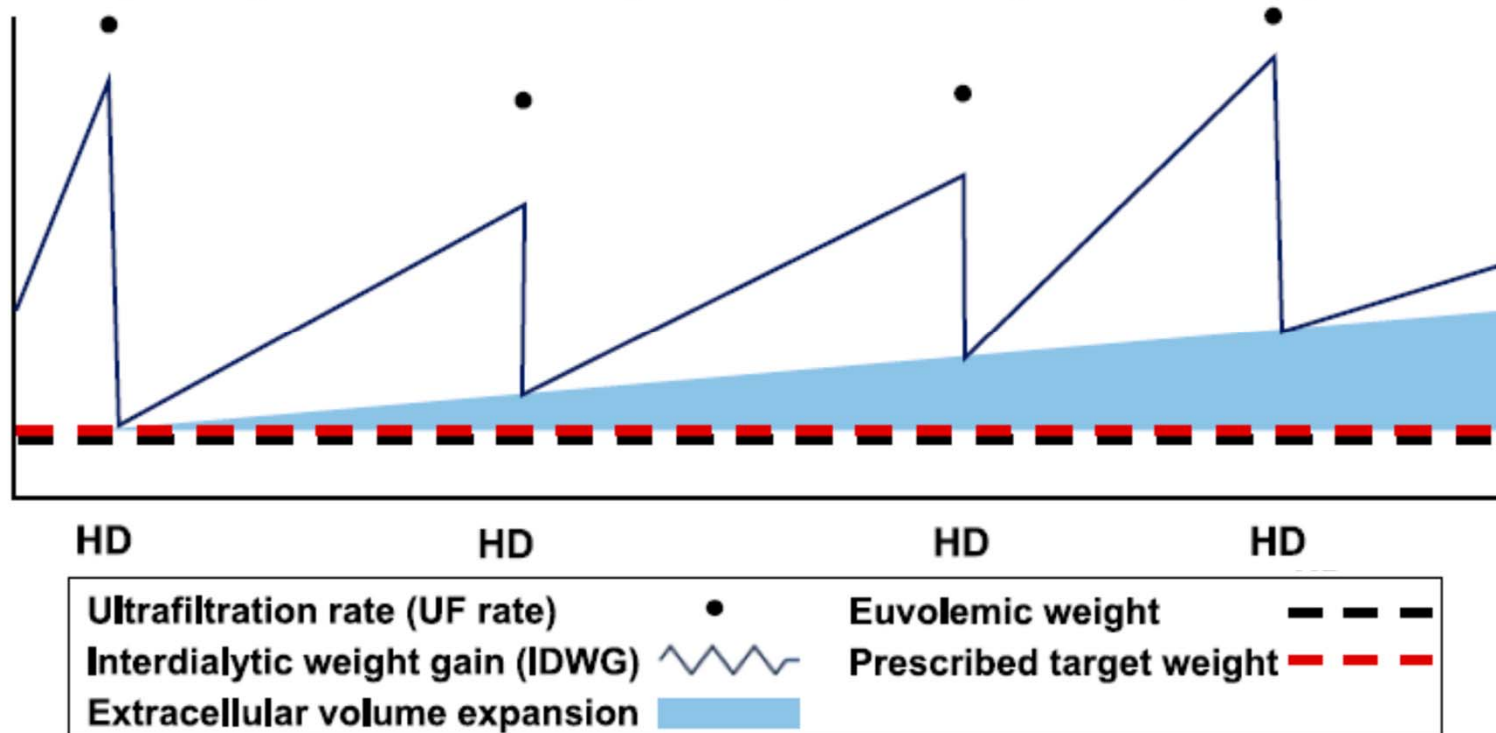


## HIGHER UF VOLUMES ASSOCIATED WITH MYOCARDIAL STUNNING

Factor associated with presence of myocardial stunning	Odds Ratio
UF volume during HD of 1L	5.1
UF volume during HD of 1.5L	11.6
UF volume during HD of 2L	26.2
Maximum SBP reduction during HD of 10 mmHg	1.8
Maximum SBP reduction during HD of 20 mmHg	3.3
Maximum SBP reduction during HD of 30 mmHg	6.0

# HOW MUCH DO YOU WANT OFF TODAY?

**B** Target weight = euvolemic weight and post-HD weight > target weight.



## WORKING DEFINITION OF TARGET WEIGHT

Reasonable blood pressure control with minimum number and doses of meds

No obvious evidence of fluid overload (shortness of breath, crackles, edema)

Patient feels subjectively fine during and after HD sessions (not washed out, cramping or passing out)

The Tower Of Babel  
Genesis 11:1-9







DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION  
SAFER. HEALTHIER. PEOPLE.

# CLEAN HANDS SAVE LIVES

## Protect patients, protect yourself



Alcohol-rub or wash  
before and after **EVERY** contact.



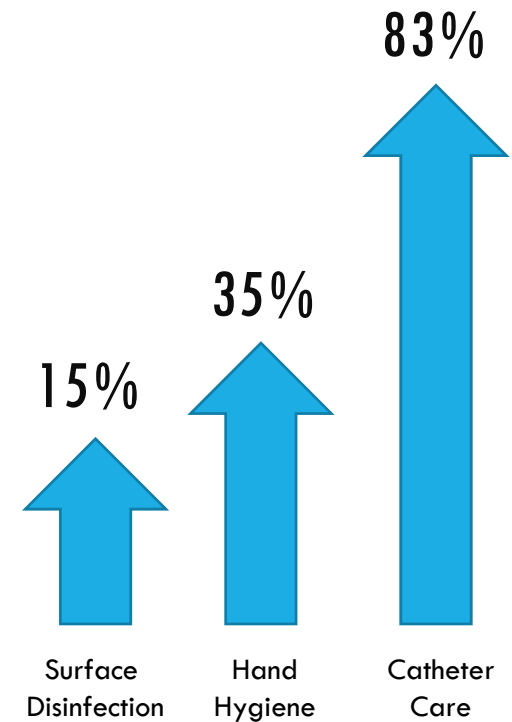
[www.cdc.gov/handhygiene](http://www.cdc.gov/handhygiene)

# U.S. DIALYSIS FACILITIES DO NOT FOLLOW BASIC INFECTION CONTROL

## • Standard Surveys - 1928 surveys/6414 Active Providers

#	V-Tag	Tag Description	# Citations	% Surveys Cited
1	V113	IC-Wear Gloves/Hand Hygiene	648	33.6%
2	V122	IC-Clean, disinfect surfaces & equipment/written protocols	581	30.1%
3	V543	POC-Manage volume status	323	16.8%
4	V403	PE-Equipment maintenance- manufacturer's DFU	307	15.9%
5	V147	IC-Staff education re catheters/catheter care	269	14.0%

The number of citations is increasing each year



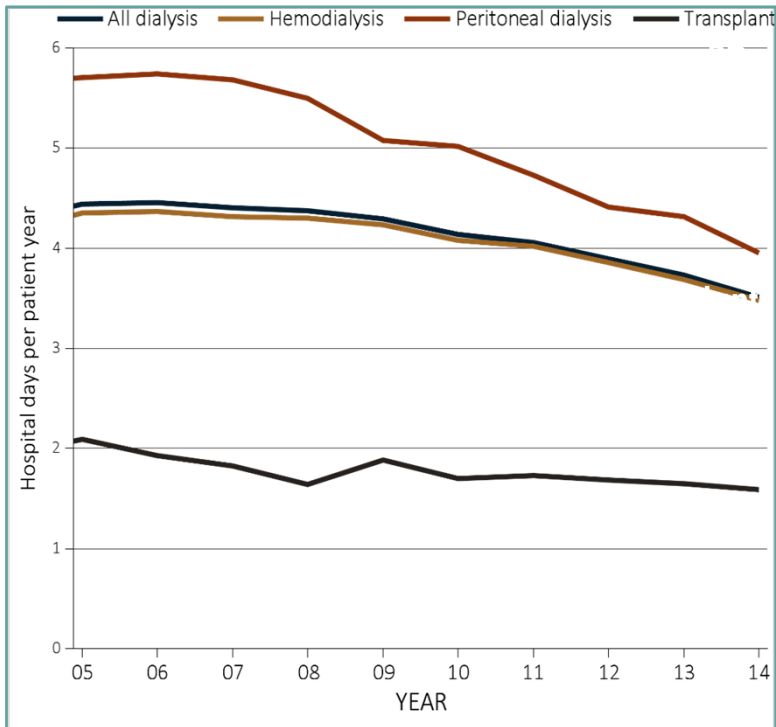
## INFECTIONS - 2<sup>ND</sup> LEADING CAUSE OF DEATH

	Cause-specific mortality			
	CVD	Infection	Other cause	Missing cause
Modality				
ESRD	39%	9%	26%	26%
Dialysis	41%	9%	27%	23%
Transplant	11%	6%	16%	68%

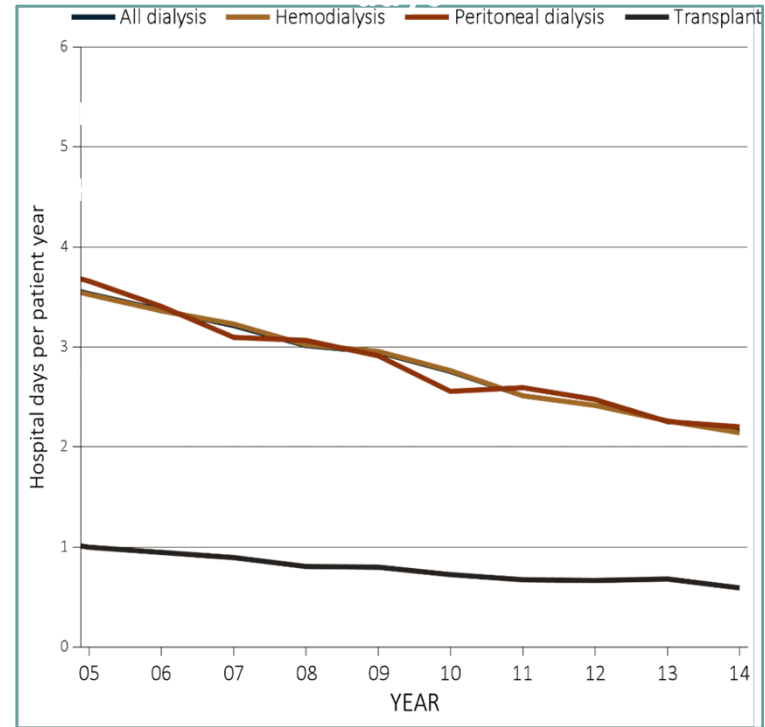
Vol 2, ESRD, ChTable 6.2 Unadjusted percentages of deaths due to cardiovascular disease (CVD), infection, other specified causes, and with missing data, by modality among ESRD patients, 2012

# MORE HOSPITAL DAYS FOR INFECTION THAN FOR CVD

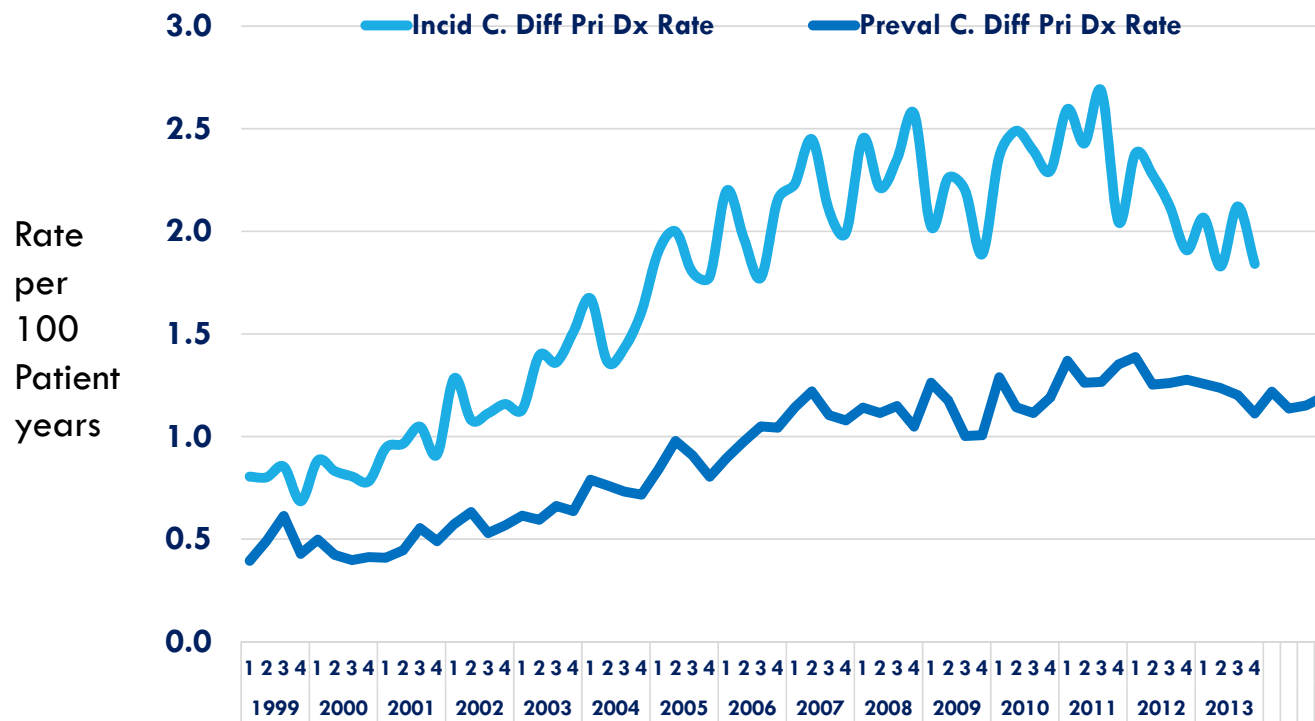
## Infection hospital days



## CVD hospital days



## C. DIFF IS EXPLODING IN ESRD PATIENTS



Slide Courtesy of Alan Klinger, MD, Nephrologists Transforming Dialysis Safety

## HIGH RELIABILITY = CULTURE OF SAFETY

“Collective mindfulness”

Communication based on mutual trust

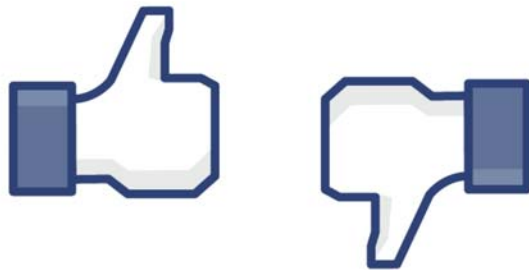
Shared perception about importance of safety

Confidence in preventive measures

Shared commitment to end preventable  
infections and harm



**“The way we do things  
around here”**



## WHAT DO DOCTORS SAY ABOUT DIALYSIS UNITS?

“Nobody follows hand hygiene consistently.”

“Dialysis staff have a “not my job” attitude.”

“Leadership for infection control is lacking.”

“The nurse manager should be in charge.”

“Everyone needs to be more engaged and empowered.”



# THREATS THAT INFLUENCE FACILITY CULTURE

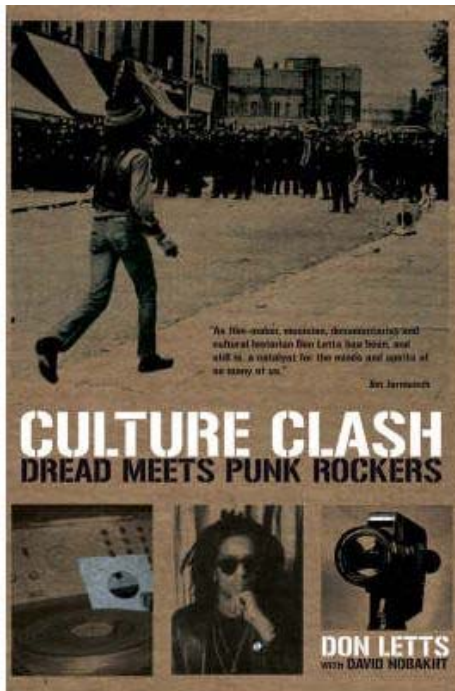
The screenshot shows the AHRQ website with the following elements:

- Header:** AHRQ Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, Advancing Excellence in Health Care. Includes a search bar.
- Navigation:** Topics, Programs, Research, Data, Tools, Funding & Grants, News, About.
- Breadcrumbs:** Home > Programs > Quality & Patient Safety.
- Left Sidebar:** A list of categories including Clinicians & Providers, Education & Training, Hospitals & Health Systems, Prevention & Chronic Care, and Quality & Patient Safety (highlighted). Under Quality & Patient Safety, there is a list of programs such as AHRQ's Healthcare-Associated Infection Program, AHRQuality Indicators™, Comprehensive Unit-based Safety Program (CUSP), etc.
- Main Content:**
  - Title:** Undermining a Culture of Safety
  - Description:** This video vignette shows a fictional scenario of a dialysis center with a culture that endangers patient safety. Staff members can use it to learn from the safety defects portrayed.
  - Video presentation:** Undermining a Culture of Safety (SWF) [4 min, 5 sec]
  - ESRD TOOLKIT MODULES:** A yellow box lists four modules: Creating a Culture of Safety, Clinical Care, Using Checklists and Audits, and Patient and Family Engagement. It also includes a link to 'Return to ESRD Toolkit Main Page'.
- Image:** A video player showing a scene with a female nurse in purple scrubs and a male doctor in blue scrubs in a clinical setting.

Patient demands  
Efficiency focus  
Time constraints  
Mixed messages  
Peer interactions

Undermining a Culture of Safety. Content last reviewed December 2014.  
Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, Rockville, MD.  
<http://www.ahrq.gov/professionals/quality-patient-safety/patient-safety-resources/resources/esrd/underminingsafetyvid.html>

## WHY CULTURE IS SO POWERFUL



You are not talking about company “values”

Culture represents imbedded behaviors and beliefs (right or wrong)

Challenging culture provokes unconscious reactions & resistance

## RESISTANCE TO CHANGE

### **Denial**

- We don't have an infection control problem

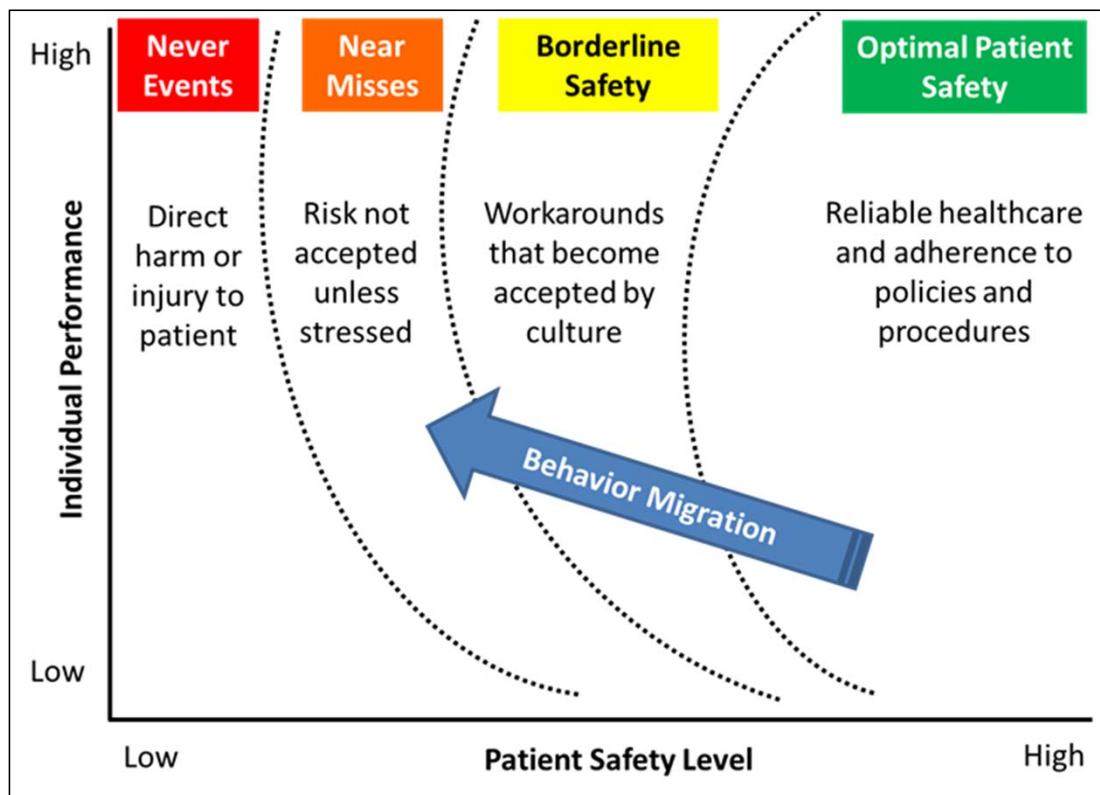
### **Blaming or evading**

- Must be the hospital or the surgeon

### **Maneuvering and bargaining**

- Why should I do all this? I'm here for the paycheck
- I'll do it...but you'll have to pay me extra

# WHY DIALYSIS STAFF BREACH POLICIES



Many breaches are intentional violations

Natural responses to stress

Shortcuts to improve performance

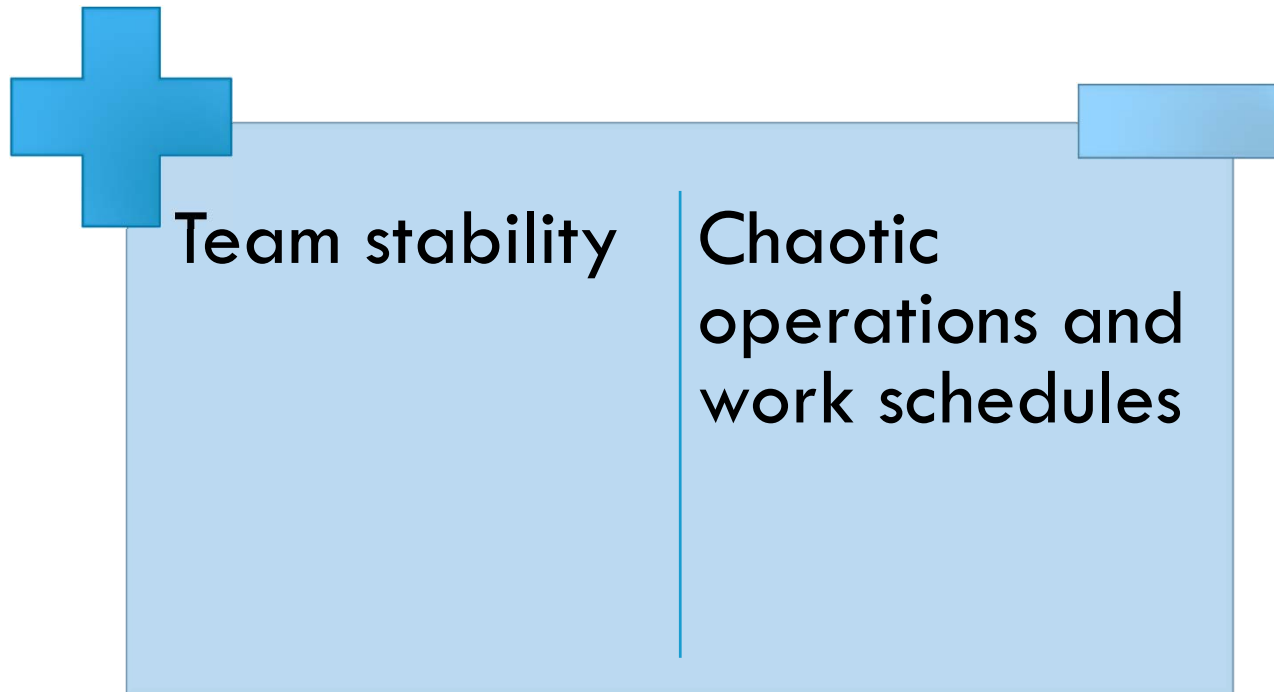
Absent of visible harm, acts become accepted

**Behavior migrates**

## WHAT REALLY HAPPENS IN DIALYSIS UNITS



# HEALTHCARE PERFORMANCE IS IMPACTED BY ENVIRONMENT



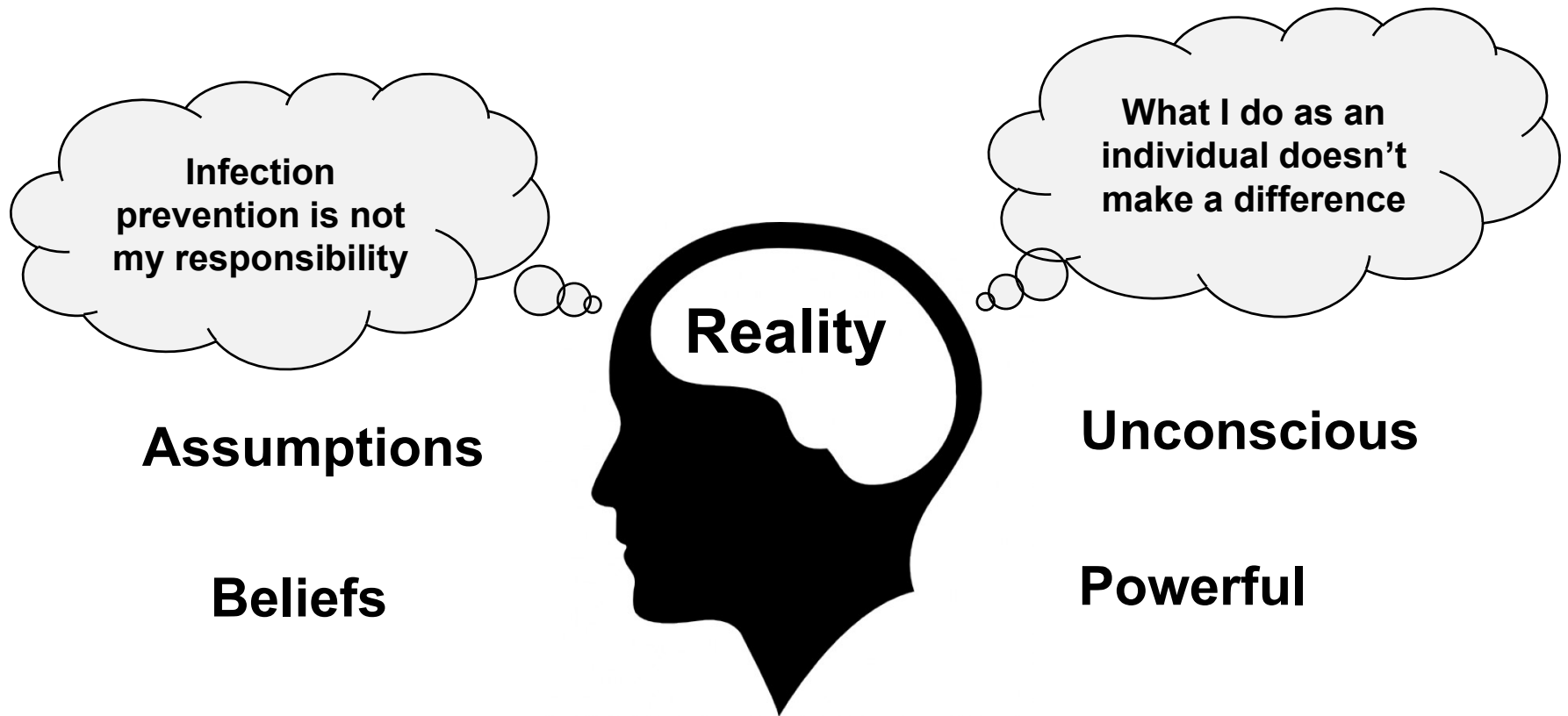
## GO MAKE A TEAM!

Most doctors and dialysis staff will agree with spirit of the request

Most doctors and dialysis staff will struggle to make it happen



# MENTAL MODELS DRIVE BEHAVIOR





## NARROW ROLES NARROW MENTAL MODELS

Although roles (and in the case of ESRD, CMS) specify who is responsible for which tasks, there is one troubling shortcoming....

Each “role” in dialysis has the expertise needed to perform one part of healthcare delivery or operations

People often focus narrowly on their own responsibilities, neglecting the larger shared goal

This risk increases when their interdependent partners are difficult to identify (e.g. different shift of workers, different groups/hospitals, different companies)

Worse when accountability around the larger goal is ambiguous

## DIFFERENT PROFESSIONS HAVE DIFFERENT MENTAL MODELS

Technicians, nurses, doctors and management are all trained to think and communicate differently

They focus and value different dimensions of coordination

This complicates team dynamics and interactions

Even though roles and assignments are supposed to clarify, they rarely guarantee the right kind of teamwork

# BARRIERS TO EFFECTIVE TEAMWORK

Inconsistency in Membership

Lack of Time

Lack of Information Sharing

Toxic hierarchy

Defensiveness

Conventional Thinking

Complacency

Conflict

Lack of Follow up with Coworkers

Distractions

Fatigue

Workload

Misinterpretation of Cues

Lack of Role Clarity

## WHAT IS LEADERSHIP?

**H**olds a team together and models effective teamwork.

**E**nsures a plan is designed and implemented.

**M**anages and allocates resources effectively.

**P**rovides feedback regarding assigned responsibilities and progress toward the goal.

**F**acilitates communication, conflict resolution, and information sharing.

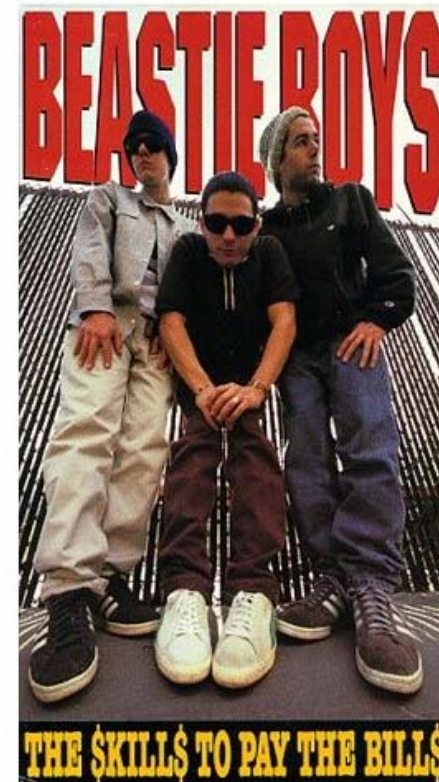
**A**ssists and encourages team members to assist one another.

**N**urtures an environment of mutual support.

## TYPES OF TEAM LEADERS

**Designated**—The person assigned to lead and organize a team, establish clear goals, and facilitate open communication and teamwork among team members.

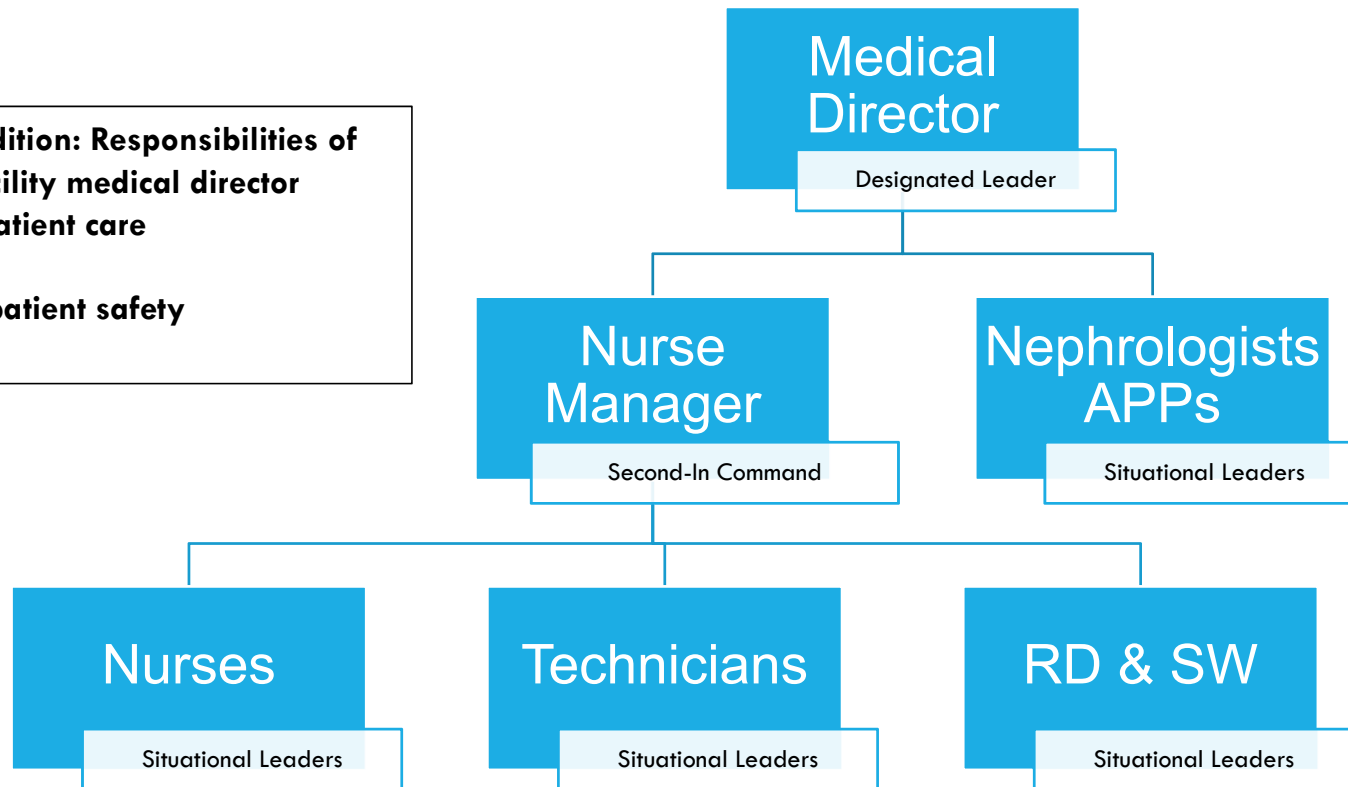
**Situational**—Any team member who has the skills to manage the situation at hand.



# LEADERSHIP IN THE FACILITY

**§494.250 Condition: Responsibilities of the dialysis facility medical director**

- Delivery of patient care
- Outcomes
- Quality and patient safety



## SITUATIONAL LEADERSHIP IN ACTION

Front-line caregivers have to explain goals to each other

Nurses and technicians need to engage each other to work out details and overcome problems

Work has to be framed with a larger (higher) goal in mind

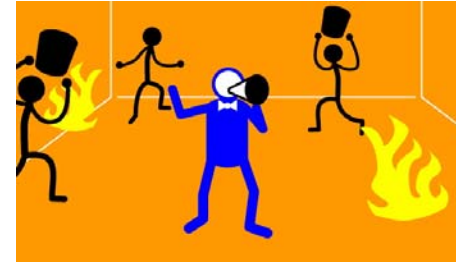
THE VISION OF A SAFETY CULTURE

Efforts require self-initiative by individuals

Hierarchy of authority must be respected and followed



## PREVENT FIRES INSTEAD OF FIGHTING THEM



Fast paced communication and coordination required in dialysis

Standardized approaches and structuring help, especially if care teams are constantly changing

Example: No posting of pod assignments

- Doctors don't know which technician or nurse is caring for which patients
- Technicians called from other pods to cover without any standardized sign out (miss important issues; can't pass along information to doctors)

Result: inefficient communication and lack of perceived accountability by dialysis staff



# KEY CONSIDERATIONS FOR MEDICAL DIRECTORS

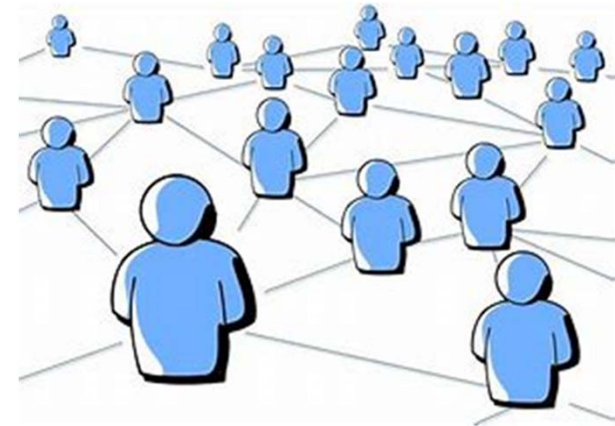
Most staff can do their jobs better than the doctor can

Medical directors have an obligation to enable staff to do better tomorrow than today

Leaders should manage staff interactions (not just actions)

Without support of staff, no medical director can lead effectively

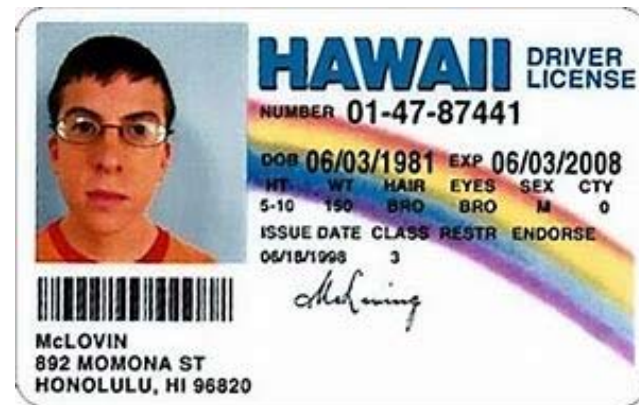
Medical directors must advocate for staff interests



## HUMAN FACTORS AND PATIENT SAFETY



# HOW IMPORTANT ARE ROLE MODELS?



## VALUE OF ONE-ON-ONE TEACHING



Even a little bit of high-quality, one-on-one time is valuable

Informal, on the job teaching can be more effective than the classroom

- More relevant
- Better timed
- More personalized

Builds loyalty, which leads to superior performance

# WHAT DOCTORS NEED FROM DIALYSIS STAFF

Situational Leadership

Team-Focused Mental Models

Adaptability

Performance Orientation

Mutual Trust

**Personal Commitment to Patient Safety!**



# PERSONAL GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

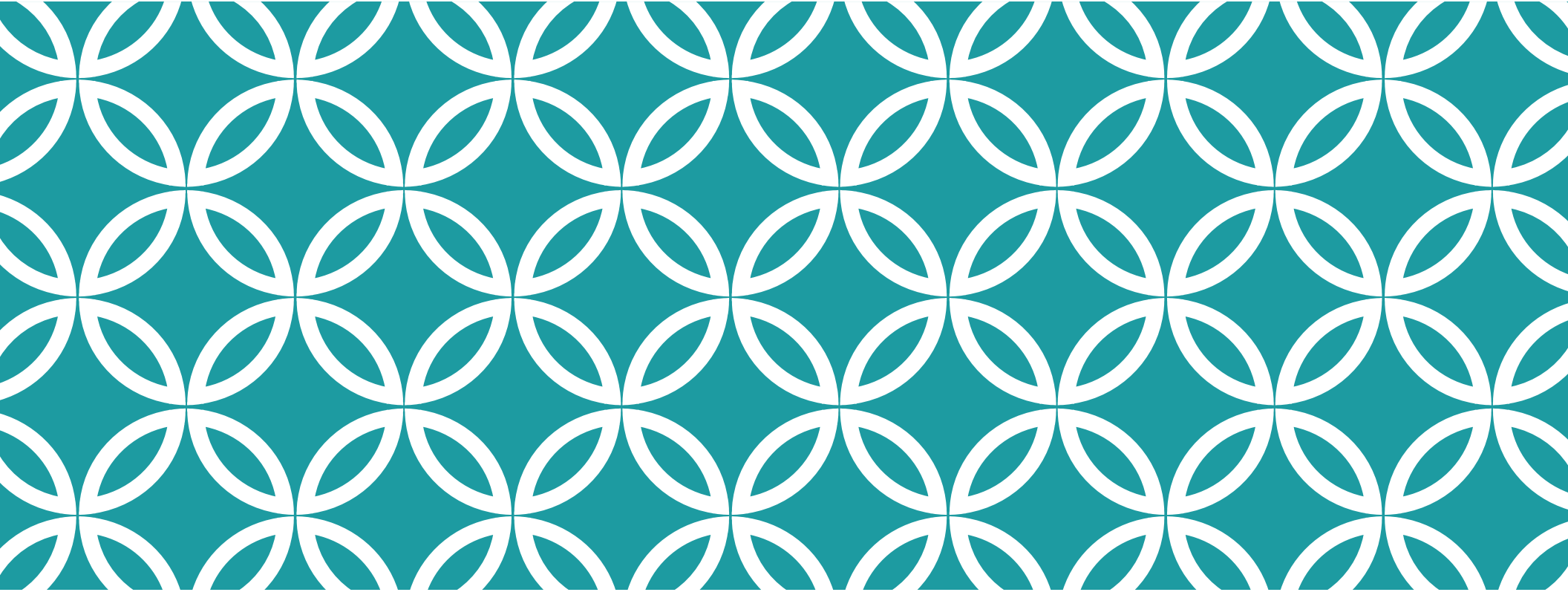


Efficiency is doing things right

Effectiveness is doing the right things

Wisdom is a product of effectiveness

Wisdom prevents us from sacrificing the future for the present



**THANK YOU! YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE FOR OUR  
PATIENTS**

