

BROADCAST FAX/EMAIL ALERT

TO:	Medical Directors, Director of Nurses & Administrators
FROM:	Angie Wieler, MSN, RN, CNN, Quality Improvement Coordinator
DATE:	July 2, 2009
RE:	Drawing Normal Saline at the Chair side
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Clarification from CMS

The Network contacted CMS to inquire whether the practice of dialysis personnel drawing normal saline syringes at the patient chair side was prohibited and thus considered a deficiency, the following response was received:

“Qualified staff members may use a patient’s bag of saline as a source to draw up saline at the patient’s chair side. Careful attention to infection control techniques is expected to prevent any potential contamination of the saline bag. Facilities that reprocess dialyzers must not use the saline bag used for rinsing the dialyzer free of germicide as a source for saline irrigation and flushing.”- Beth Witten, ESRD Specialist

At any time if you have questions about the CMS Conditions for Coverage, you may contact them directly at:

ESRDSurvey@cms.hhs.gov