

Guidelines for Managing Patients with Bed Bugs in Dialysis Facilities



Managing patients with bed bugs can be challenging. Facilities are responsible for ensuring that patients affected by bed bugs continue to receive access to care while minimizing the risk of infestation and spread within the facility. This guide provides steps that dialysis facilities can take to address concerns related to bed bugs.

Facility Instructions

Review the facility policy and procedure on pest control.

Schedule a meeting with the patient and/or family to address areas of concern.

Provide the patient with a letter of concern.

Preventative Strategies

Treat the patient in an isolation room if available. If an isolation room is not available, consider using a dialysis chair at the end of the treatment floor to best isolate bed bugs. Designate a specific chair for the patient's use only if possible.

Keep everything off the floor in the vicinity of the chair.

Limit the number of personal belongings that the patient brings into the facility.

Place the patient's belongings in a sealable bag and return items after treatment.

Consider investing in a heating box to treat the patient's belongings.

Perform routine inspections and work with pest control professionals.

Cover the dialysis chair with white paper to make it easier to identify bed bugs.

Consider using protective measures like disposable blankets and gowns for patients with known infestations.

Patient Instructions

Provide instructions to the patient to wash and dry their clothes on high heat, take a shower before scheduled treatment, and wear freshly washed and dried clothes after showering.

Offer resources and guidance to help the patient take necessary steps to manage bed bugs.

Assistance for Patients

If the patient resides in a rented home, verify with the patient if the owner will cover the cost/create a work order for fumigation services. Landlords may have a responsibility to do so.

Assist the patient in identifying sources of assistance for home fumigation.

Provide education and assistance with community resources if financial challenges are present.



Resources for Patients with Financial Hardship

Social Services/County Crisis Grants

Local Council on Aging Grants

American Kidney Fund (AKF) Safety Net Grant Program

Contact local pest control companies to inquire about reduced cost options or payment plans

Request a free home pest inspection from a local pest control company. Many smaller, local companies provide free inspections as a way to earn business.

Outreach to local church groups, Salvation Army, Catholic Charities

Inquire if the patient's home clinic offers financial assistance

Check with the lead regional social worker/teammates for additional local resources

If the patient is a renter, check whether this is a covered incidence from the landlord, property group, or respective housing authority

The following resources provide helpful tips and guidelines on identification, prevention and treatment of bed bugs.

EPA: United States Environmental Protection Agency

- [Introduction to Bed Bugs | US EPA](#)
- [Protecting Your Home from Bed Bugs | US EPA](#)
- [Protecting Yourself from Bed Bugs in Public Places | US EPA](#)
- [Do-it-yourself Bed Bug Control | US EPA](#)
- [Pesticides to Control Bed Bugs | US EPA](#)
- [Find a Bed Bug Pesticide Product | US EPA](#)

Managing bed bugs in a dialysis setting requires sensitivity and understanding to ensure the well-being of all patients and staff. Dealing with bed bugs can be a stressful and emotional experience. It is important to remember that having bed bugs is not a reflection of a patient's cleanliness, worth, or value. Bed bugs can happen to anyone, regardless of their background or lifestyle. Patients with bed bug issues should feel supported and respected while steps are being taken to address the situation. **Involuntary discharge is not an appropriate response to patients who present with bed bugs.**



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This material was prepared by the IPRO ESRD Network Program, comprising the ESRD Networks of New York, New England, the South Atlantic and the Ohio River Valley, under contract with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), an agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Views expressed in this material do not necessarily reflect the official views or policy of CMS or HHS, and any reference to a specific product or entity herein does not constitute endorsement of that product or entity by CMS or HHS. Publication # ESRD.IPRO-G2-NW-20250107-410 . LC 03/20/25 V8

