

Name of Child: _____ Date: _____

Peritonitis in children getting dialysis

What is it?

The organs in the belly are covered by a lining called the **peritoneum**. This lining is like the thin skin around sections of an orange. Sometimes, peritoneal dialysis can make this peritoneum lining irritated and swollen. The lining may also get infected with germs. This is called **peritonitis** (pear-ee-tuh-NYE-tis).

What are the signs and symptoms of peritonitis?

A child with peritonitis may have one or several symptoms, including:

- belly pain
- belly tender to the touch
- swollen belly
- sick to the stomach
- throwing up
- loose stools
- fever
- chills
- cloudy dialysis fluid
- pus from the site of the dialysis catheter



**A child with
peritonitis
may have belly pain.**

What do I do if I think my child has peritonitis?

If your child has any symptom of peritonitis:

Call the nurse or doctor right away.

On weekdays from 8:30 am to 4:00 pm, call the nurse at the dialysis center at 602-546-4726 or 602-546-4719.

When the dialysis center is closed, call 602-546-0965 and ask for the nephrologist on call.

Do not give your child antibiotics until you

- call the nurse or doctor, who will tell you what to do next.
- get a sample bag to be tested.

The doctor needs to know what kind of germ your child has, so your child can be given the right antibiotic.

How is peritonitis treated?

The goal of treatment is to get rid of the germs with an antibiotic.

If your child has a lot of pain, the nurse or doctor may tell you to fill then drain right away, with manual bags of 1.5% solution, 2 or 3 times. This is called a flush.

Your dialysis team will tell you how to treat your child's peritonitis. They will decide if your child can be treated at home or needs to go to the hospital.

What can I do to prevent peritonitis?

Most infections are caused by germs normally found on the skin. You may prevent infection by keeping germs away from the catheter.

1. Put on a mask.
2. Wash your hands with soap and water for 3 minutes, rinse, and dry them.
3. After you wash your hands, touch only the PD equipment or supplies. Don't touch the sterile parts. If you touch something else, wash your hands again. Sometimes, you cannot prevent peritonitis.

Now that you've read this:

- Tell your nurse or doctor the signs and symptoms of peritonitis. (Check when done.)
- Tell your nurse or doctor what you would do if your child had any of the signs of peritonitis. (Check when done.)
- Tell your nurse or doctor where you will keep your peritonitis kit so you could easily find it. (Check when done.)



If you have any questions or concerns,
 call your child's doctor or call _____

If you want to know more about child health and illness,
visit our library at The Emily Center at Phoenix Children's Hospital
1919 East Thomas Road
Phoenix, AZ 85016
602-546-1400
866-933-6459
www.phoenixchildrens.com

Disclaimer

The information provided at this site is intended to be general information, and is provided for educational purposes only. It is not intended to take the place of examination, treatment, or consultation with a physician. Phoenix Children's Hospital urges you to contact your physician with any questions you may have about a medical condition.

Tuesday, November 25, 2008 • DRAFT to family review
#540 • Written by Joanne Watson, BSN, RN and Nancy Grissom, RN
• Illustrated by Dennis Swain



Name of Health Care Provider: _____ Number: 540
For office use: Date returned: _____ db nb

Family Review of Handout

Health care providers: Please teach families with this handout.

Families: Please let us know what you think of this handout.

Would you say this handout is hard to read? Yes No

easy to read? Yes No

Please circle the parts of the handout that were hard to understand.

Would you say this handout is interesting to read? Yes No

Why or why not?

Would you do anything differently after reading
this handout? Yes No

If yes, what?

After reading this handout, do you have any
questions about the subject? Yes No

If yes, what?

Is there anything you don't like about the drawings?

Yes No

If yes, what?

What changes would you make in this handout to make it better or easier to understand?

Please return your review of this handout to your nurse or doctor or send it to the address below.

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Thank you for helping us!