

# Thank Nephrology Nurses for Always Being Kind to Patients

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“Director, 2087-1 Wang Hsiao-May only weighs 42.5 kilograms, breathes heavily, blood pressure at 188/96. How do we do the dialysis today?” “Director, yesterday my father said he was very weak. Can he only do two dialyses this time?” As soon as I walked into the hemodialysis room, there was always a bunch of people surrounding me for questions.

Hemodialysis and Peritoneal dialysis are for patients with final stage of kidney diseases. The inconvenience of the living with the dialyses, have created a painful experience for patients and their families. Therefore, patients always ask for the less painful alternative (one or two times or one time per month). I always ask my great assistants, the nurses, to help in this situation.

The interactions of nurses with patients are close, they look solemn but their behaviors are lovable. All strangers will think they are close relatives. Thus for those patients who want less hemodialysis or peritoneal dialyses, I ask the nurses to handle the situations. Even though patients do not want to go through dialysis, nurses always have a way to convince them. As a doctor, I only need to do the approval with nodding. One can see the mutual understanding and trust between nurses and patients.



For doctors, the most frequent interacting persons are nurses in the professional field. Everyone has his/her specialty. The softness and patience of the nurses, and the patients' trust upon them, are the motivation for following nurses' advices.



Every month, when patients are due back for a return checkup, we can always see the nurses busy helping patients, observing their tube placement, and telephoning those who have in-home services. They also observe patients and family members for their concerns regarding the dialysis. To the doctors, the best support is to understand patients' condition and explain the most effective approach. All these unwritten communication between doctors and nurses serve as great understanding between us. Nurses always play different roles in helping patients, sometimes like mothers when caring their patients. One can see that they are very happy when patients get well and when patients in pain they do not shy to comfort them. Those are very touching moments.

I remember an instance when a peritoneal dialysis patient was hungry with low blood sugar but was embarrassed to say anything. A nurse observed the problem and offered her own breakfast to the patient. Few months later, the patient still appreciated her kind deed that saved his life and was thankful to be able to come to this hospital.

Sometimes, the nurses for peritoneal dialysis visit patients' home. Only when they are in the patients' home, can they uncover many important health problem to help them manage efficiently. Sometimes, patients demand or complain, but nurses respond with kindness and firm. Because of their belief in helping people, they can understand patients and earn their trust.

During these years at the Taichung Tzu Chi Hospital, we especially appreciate the nurses from Hemodialysis and Peritoneal dialysis. Because of their attentiveness, diligence, and considerate manners, we as doctors can focus on the medical care and treatment. It is understandable that there will always be some conflicts because of different opinions, or some misunderstandings, and even small arguments when it comes to the treatment of patients. Because of their tolerance and good communication skills, we are able to resolve these differences and provide the best care for patients. Thanks to all the medical personnel, they are the most important assets for the hospital and deserve our respect and appreciation.