

## ***Introduction***

Chronic kidney disease is a progressive, irreversible deterioration in renal function in which the body ability to maintain metabolic, fluid and electrolyte balance fails, resulting in uremia or azotemia (***Smeltzer& Bara, 2010***) in this stage, life can be sustained only with transplantation or dialysis (***Glasper&Richerdson, 2006***). Heamodialysis is widely used for the treatment of renal failure. It effectively removes uremic substances from the blood as well as correct water and electrolyte imbalance (***Mohr&Neurmann, 2011***).

The central administration for national information center for health and population in Egypt, 2004 reported that chronic renal failure of hospitalized patient is approximately 1.36% of all hospitalized Egyptian patient. The incidence of chronic renal failure in population in developed countries is 6 – 8 per 100.000 /per year (***Zahran & Frances, 2010***).

Patient undergoing hemodialysis procedure requires special nursing care. This has created the need for high skilled personnel trained in the art of hemodialysis procedure. Nurses working in dialysis unit should comply with the occupational safety and health administration standards (***Baer, 2007***).

A dialysis nurse is a registered nurse who specializes in caring for patients undergoing hemodialysis or peritoneal dialysis, both of which are life-saving procedures for those with severely impaired kidney function. Dialysis nurses fall into the general category of nephrology nursing, the branch of nursing specializing in care for patients with kidney disorders and diseases , and assist patients with both forms of dialysis, although

peritoneal dialysis requires nurses who make in-home visits (*Burrows-Hudson & Prawant, 2005*).

Nursing responsibility is to assess the patients' condition, teach patients how to do peritoneal dialysis or hemodialysis in the unit setting, consider the patients' learning needs and provide education about their treatment, make a training plan for each patient, give the patients the medications ordered by doctors, evaluate the patients' ability to perform their dialysis treatments and take all doctor-prescribed medications, help patients follow-up with their transplant center, review the patients' lab work, home medications and activities and let the doctors know about changes in patients' conditions (*Bernzweig, 2008*).

Nursing standards of care that are demonstrated by the nurse through the nursing process involve assessment, diagnosis, outcome identification, planning implementation and evaluation. The nursing process is the foundation of clinical decision making in compasses all significant action taken by nurses in providing care to all patients (*Potter, 2005*). Standards are outlines what the profession expects of its members, promotes guides and directs professional nursing practice—important for self-assessment and evaluation of practice by employers, clients and other stakeholders, provides nurses with a framework for developing competencies aids in developing a better understanding & respect for the various and complimentary roles that nurses have (*Odom & Strain, 2005*).

Professional standards ensure that the highest level of quality nursing care is promoted. Excellent nursing practice is reflection of sound ethical standard, client care requires more than just the application of scientific knowledge. A nurse must be able to think critically, solve

problem and find best solution for clients' need to assist clients in maintaining, or improving their health (*Gaughey, 2009*).

Nursing standards of care are guidelines by which nurses should practice. If nurses do not perform duties within accepted standards of care, they may place themselves in jeopardy of legal action. Malpractice suit against nurses are based on the charge that the patient was injured as a consequence of the nurses failure to meet the appropriate standards of care (*Theresa, 2006*).

The nursing practice standards is applied at all times to all nurses regardless of role, provide guidelines to assist nurses in decision making, Support nurses by outlining practice expectation of profession, inform the public and others about what they can expect from practicing nurses and are used as a legal reference for reasonable and prudent practice (*Basavanthappa, 2009*).