

Hemodialysis Emergency Support Team (HEST) Group

Terms of Reference

Category	Description
Purpose	<p>The Hemodialysis Emergency Support Team (HEST) is dedicated to enhancing the response to climate-related emergencies affecting patient care. A structured approach ensures effective management during such crises.</p> <p>The primary objectives of HEST group meetings are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Review and assess emergency incidents and their management. - Update and refine protocols and procedures for managing emergencies. - Strategize efforts to enhance patient safety and treatment effectiveness during crisis situations. - Promote professional networking and support. - Provide updates and education on various emergency related matters
Responsibilities	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review Provincial Emergency Guidelines: Assess and refine emergency management protocols to ensure they are effective and up-to-date. 2. Analyze Emergency Incidents: Examine and evaluate past emergency incidents within the health authority renal program, discuss lessons learned, and integrate improvements into protocols. 3. Liaise with BC Renal Committees and Partners: Collaborate with BC Renal committees and partners to evaluate and enhance emergency management strategies. 4. Advise on Emergency Procedures: Provide guidance to the Health Authority Renal Programs and the Emergency Management Committee on new, emerging, or unresolved issues affecting emergency procedure implementation. 5. Promote Knowledge Exchange: Actively engage in knowledge sharing and the promotion of best practices for emergency management across the BC renal network. 6. Improve Patient Safety: Identify and implement opportunities to enhance patient safety and quality of care during emergencies. 7. Foster Team Communication: Enhance communication and collaboration among nursing staff and other team members to improve emergency response effectiveness.

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Deliverables	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Standardized Emergency Response: Ensure a unified approach to emergency response. 2. Policy and Protocol Review: Regularly review and update policies and protocols to ensure they reflect best practices and remain relevant. 3. Knowledge Exchange Optimization: Analyze lessons learned from emergency events and update protocols and procedures to enhance their practicality and effectiveness. 4. The Hemodialysis Emergency Support Team nurses are deployed in emergency situations as determined by the ETG (Emergency Task Group) to provide specialized support related to hemodialysis.
Composition	<p>Membership of this group will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BC Renal Emergency Management Lead • HEST Deputy Nurse • BC Renal Project Coordinator • All provincial HEST nurses
Reporting Relationships	<p>The BC Renal Hemodialysis Emergency Support Team reports to the BC Renal Emergency Management and Renal Administrators’ Committee and the BC Renal Executive Committee.</p>
Meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bi-monthly meetings: The HEST group will meet every 2 months. Contact between meetings will be via email, phone call, or Teams as needed. • Ad Hoc meetings: Called by the BC Renal Emergency Lead as necessary. Meetings will be either by Teams or face-to-face, scheduled for convenience. • As required, Emergency Task Group meetings when an emergency is identified. • Quality and Safety reviews: Under Section 51 of the BC Evidence Act, these reviews are “Privileged and Confidential: For Quality Improvement Purposes.” Records of quality and safety assurance functions will be kept “in camera” and separately documented in the meeting minutes.