

## Peritoneal Dialysis (PD)

### What is PD?

PD is a type of dialysis that is used to help the kidneys perform their job when they are unable to. PD uses the peritoneum, or the cavity inside the belly, to exchange fluids and minerals, also known as electrolytes.

PD in the cardiovascular intensive care unit (CVICU) is generally used after cardiopulmonary bypass surgery. During these types of surgeries, patients receive lots of fluid and blood products. Sometimes the kidneys have a hard time keeping up with all the fluid and need some assistance in fluid removal.

### How does PD work?

In the operating room, the surgeon will place a peritoneal catheter into the abdomen. This catheter resembles a large straw. The dialysis team will then set up a system of tubing with special dialysis fluids. The fluid is poured into the abdomen through the peritoneal dialysis catheter. The fluid is designed to draw water out of the body, through the peritoneum and out the straw. This will be performed continuously. Cycles of filling the abdomen, allowing the fluid to sit, and draining the fluid are 1 hour.

### What are the goals of PD?

- Remove fluid
- Maintain electrolyte balance

The Nephrology team (kidney doctors) will prescribe PD and work with the ICU team to manage electrolyte and fluid balance.

### What else do you need to know?

- The nurses in the ICU will frequently monitor your child's vital signs, including heart rate and blood pressure. These are ways to measure if your child's fluid balance is within normal limits.
- Blood levels of your electrolytes will be monitored frequently. Any abnormal values will be treated.

### How long will my child need PD?

Your child's ICU team will decide how long PD should be needed. Generally, patients are on PD for 3-7 days. After discharge, it is important to follow up outpatient with the kidney team.