

# Nursing experience with an AIDS inmate undergoing hemodialysis

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## Abstract

This article describes nursing care experience of a 37 year old male drug addict undergoing dialysis due to kidney failure. Through interviews, observations, and physical assessments between January 3rd and March 23th., 2011, the author identified nursing problems such as “fluid volume overload”, “lack of knowledge” and “situational low self-esteem”. To deal with the discomfort from fluid volume overload, the author assessed the patient’s situation, provided instructions relating to weight monitoring and diet control. The author assessed the client’s diet knowledge then discussed, planned and evaluated with clients and prison officers appropriate health activities for the client’s lifestyle. The author also applied listening and empathy skills, built up a good nurse-patient relationship, provided AIDS-related information, and respected the patient’s privacy during hemodialysis to make improvements to situational low self-esteem. The client has continued to receive dialysis treatment after discharge and the author continued to provide mental support and assistance to the client. The author contacted the AIDS division and local public health center to assist this client as well. This article makes the following recommendations: 1) Invite corrections officers to participate in the hospital’s kidney disease patient groups and health education classes in order to provide inmates with better health care; 2) Allow medical personnel to visit prisons on a regular basis to provide AIDS and kidney failure care-related courses 3) Have the hospital organize training courses and in-service education that help nurses play the role of patient coordinator and advocate.

**Key words: acquired immunodeficiency syndrome, AIDS, inmate, hemodialysis, kidney failure**

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