

Information for Dialysis Patients

This information is intended for those persons who are on dialysis and who wish to enjoy our lovely island, St. Maarten. It is meant to answer some of the questions you may have. We understand that it possibly will not address all topics, but you are most welcome to e-mail, call or fax us for more information.

The SMMC Dialysis Department

Our Dialysis Department is located on the premises of our hospital facility. It was fully renovated in September 2004, expanding from 4 to 10 units to accommodate the growing number of dialysis requests. Water purification is achieved by reverse osmosis and all materials being used meet European and U.S. Standards. The Dialysis Unit is on the ground-floor and easily accessible by wheel-chair, fully air-conditioned and offers the patients a relaxed atmosphere.

Our Staff

Our resident medical Internist supervises the medical care of the patients. In this unit qualified registered nurses with certified specialization in Dialysis Care give patients the best possible care. English is the general language spoken on the hospital premises, however the multilingual abilities of our staff is able to cater to various languages.



Requirements of the St Maarten Medical Center

Paperwork

To be eligible for dialysis you need to provide us with:

- Recent H.I.V. status
- Recent Hepatitis B and C status
- Recent results of two M.R.S.A. cultures. See instructions.
- Recent HRMO cultures
- Recent Flow sheet
- Short Medical History

Information should not be older than four (4) weeks before the first planned treatment at the St. Maarten Medical Center. (See below for details on medical information).

Reservations

Availability is limited and reservations are made on a “first come-first served” basis. Please contact us at least **6 weeks** before booking your trip, to avoid disappointment.

For patients to be dialyzed at our center, please ensure that the following tests are done:

1. M.R.S.A. screening (Methycilline Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus)

Two sets of swabs taken for MRSA screening. **Each set** consists of swabs (not blood cultures) from the following areas:

- Nose,
- Throat
- AV Fistula/Graft
- Wounds (if any)
- Insertion wound of dialysis catheter (if any)
- Urine culture (if patient has a bladder catheter)

According to governing European Standards, one set (of at least two swabs) has to be taken before dialysis and one set after dialysis the same day. This screening has to be done no longer than four (4) weeks prior to the first planned treatment at the Sint Maarten Medical Center. Important to know is that we can only treat M.R.S.A. and HRMO negative patients.

2. HRMO Screening (Highly Resistant Micro-organisms)

Testing for the presence of HRMO in these specified patients is done by a single set of cultures.

The following cultures are to be taken in all cases:

- throat swab,
- rectal swab or feces.
- AV Fistula/Graft

In addition, the following cultures should be taken:

- sputum if the patient has a productive cough;
- wound smear in the case of wounds or lesions;
- urine in the case of a urinary catheter;

3. HIV screening and Hepatitis B and C

Patients must test negative on all four tests.

Our Policy

We do not accept any patients unless we have received all information on paper. This means that the dialysis unit has to ensure that all results are on St. Maarten in time or we will have to refuse treatment of the patient.

Fax all results to SMMC's fax # 011-(721) 543 0116 no later than three weeks before travelling date. Please confirm the receipt of those results with the SMMC dialysis department before travelling, to avoid disappointment.

We reserve the right to refuse patients for any of the following reasons:

- Psychiatric disorders
- Contagious diseases (i.e.. HIV positive / Hepatitis B positive / Hepatitis C positive / MRSA positive)
- Medical instability
- Less than one year on dialysis
- Non- compliance and or disruptive behaviour.

Payment of Services

Charges for dialysis are **US\$ 1,050** per treatment, including basic doctor's fee.

This charge excludes lab work, Epogen or other medication, IV or oral.

Payments can be paid by cash or by credit card. We honor the following credit cards:

Visa / Master Card / Discover / American Express / Diners Club.

With your paid hospital statement you can then reclaim directly from your insurance provider.

For administrative reasons we kindly request you to settle the financial part of your treatment upon checking in.

Cancellation of Reservation:

A non refundable deposit of \$75,00 is required to ensure your reservation.

To guarantee the reservation and payment in case of no-show, please complete the following information below and return to us by fax

I hereby authorize the St. Maarten Medical Center to charge my credit card for the amount US\$ 75.00 as a reservation fee. Upon cancellation of this reservation this amount will be forfeited.		
Credit Card Company	_____	
Number	_____	Exp. _____
Signature	_____	

THE PATIENT hereby declares that he/she has taken due note the conditions above regarding the request and reservations for Dialysis Treatment and will comply with the acceptance policy, agreeing with St. Maarten Medical Center’s payment policy.

Date: _____

Patient’s signature

Thank you for your cooperation. If there are any questions please feel free to call or fax us. We hope to see you soon!

St. Maarten Medical Center Dialysis Department
Welgelegen Road 30,
Cay Hill, St. Maarten

A. Rotsburg, R.N. CDN (Mrs.)
Supervisor Dialysis Unit
St. Maarten Medical Center

Tel: 011-721-543 1111 ext 1601
Fax: 011-721-543 0116

phone:+(721) 543 1111 ext 1601
e-mail: dialysis@sxmmc.sx

Please remember to provide your address and contact information.