



500 Bull Street
Columbia, SC 29201-1708

July 21, 1999

MEMORANDUM

TO: Administrators, Renal Dialysis Facilities

FROM: Jerry L. Paul, Director
Health Licensing Section

SUBJECT: Noted Trends on Inspections of Renal Dialysis Facilities

Violations of standards outlined in Section 407.D of Regulation 61-97, Standards for Licensing Renal Dialysis Facilities have recently appeared as a trend.

Citations have been issued for blood received at a facility that has not been maintained at the proper temperature during transit. Concurrent to these violations, citations have been written for not maintaining a record of the temperature of the blood upon arrival at the facility.

Citations have also been issued regarding the storage of the blood in the refrigerator when not administered immediately. Specifically, documentation of the monitoring of the temperatures of the storage refrigerator is not being accomplished per standards.

Please note Section 407 of R61-97 pertaining to administration of blood:

Section 407.D Administration of Blood. If a facility administers blood to patients, the following must be complied with:

- 1. Blood must be transported from the laboratory processing the blood to the facility in a container that will ensure maintenance of a temperature of 1 to 10 degrees centigrade. Temperature must be recorded upon arrival.**
- 2. If blood is not administered immediately upon arrival, it must be stored in a refrigerator at 1 - 6 degrees centigrade. The temperature of the refrigerator must be monitored and recorded.**

Facilities must be aware of the proper Fahrenheit degree range if thermometers do not have Centigrade readings. One to six degrees centigrade is 34° to 43° fahrenheit.

Please ensure that your facilities are complying with this Section. Improper handling of blood can lead to serious effects on patients..

JLP/RAL/ms