



Health Facility Licensing and Certification

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Dialysis Facility Modified Operations and Closures

The Oregon Health Authority's Health Care Regulation & Quality Improvement section regulates End-Stage Renal Disease Treatment Facilities (ESRDs) across Oregon. As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic some Oregon ESRDs are modifying operations and others have temporarily closed.

Patient Impacts

Transfers:

ESRD patients may be transferred from their home clinic to a different clinic in situations of modified operations or closure. ESRD patients have rights in these situations.

Patients should review [ESRD Patient Rights & Responsibilities](#) on the [ESRD National Coordinating Center](#) website.

Prior to closure an ESRD must provide affected patients notice that services will be discontinued and work to relocate patients to other ESRD facilities in consideration of patient preferences and with minimal disruption.

Hospital Limitations:

Dialysis patients who go to a hospital emergency department instead of the ESRD where they have scheduled treatment may not be able to receive hemodialysis at the hospital. Missing treatment at the ESRD may impact a patient's ability to continue receiving treatment at the ESRD as ESRDs reassign chairs when ESRD capacity is limited.

Hospitals are not licensed to provide outpatient dialysis. Regardless of whether patient chooses to go to the hospital or the ESRD suggests the patient go to the hospital for routine care; hospitals can only provide dialysis to inpatients and patients with an emergency medical condition unless they have received federal and state authorization to provide additional dialysis services. A single missed treatment may not result in an emergency medical condition; the development of an emergency medical condition will depend on a variety of factors including the extent of kidney function and overall health.

Modified Operations

COVID-19 patients:

Safe treatment options have evolved during the pandemic. ESRD patients who currently have COVID-19 or whose COVID infection status is unknown may be treated at:

- A designated cohort facility with other patients who have the same COVID status;
- A non-cohort facility during designated cohort shifts with other patients who have the same COVID status; or
- A non-cohort facility in the facility's isolation room.

Dialysis providers, including DaVita, Fresenius Kidney Care and U.S. Renal Care have formed the [Dialysis Community Response Needs Team](#). Across their combined network, these providers aim to act as a safety net for any provider that cannot provide enough isolation treatments in its own clinics (DCRN or Team). The goal is to treat as many patients as possible in the outpatient setting, thus reducing the burden on hospitals and other emergency providers. The memo includes the process to place isolation patients. The Central Admissions numbers included in the [DCRN memo](#) can also be used to place new to outpatient dialysis patients. Due to staffing, availability is extremely limited.

For more information review the [COVID-19 FAQ by ESRD Patients](#) on the ESRD National Coordinating Center website.

Operating at limited capacity:

Some ESRDs temporarily modify operations during specific periods to address limited capacity by reducing patient treatment times for all patients. These temporary changes are authorized by the ESRD medical director. If you are a patient or provider who is impacted by the modified operations please refer to the [ESRD Patient Rights & Responsibilities](#).

Designated cohort facilities are providing treatment to COVID-positive patients only. COVID-negative patients who are usually treated at those facilities have been transferred to other ESRDs. There are no designated cohort facilities operating at this time.

Closures

HCRQI will update the closure list below when the ESRD provides notice of an impending closure.

Facilities that temporarily close may be subject to an on-site survey or review prior to reopening to determine whether the facility is in compliance with licensing laws. In addition, depending on the duration, an ESRD may be treated by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services as a voluntary termination of Medicare certification.

Temporarily Closed ESRDs		
Facility Name	Location	Temporarily Closed as of
FMC Milton Freewater	1213 S Main Street Milton Freewater, OR 97862	11/3/2021
Foster Powell Dialysis Center	6828 SE Foster Road Portland, OR 97206	6/1/2022
Fresenius Medical Care Sandy Dialysis	37139 Highway 26 Sandy, OR 97055	11/3/2021
Oregon Kidney Center	3524 NE Sandy Boulevard Portland, OR 97232	9/30/22

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