



Board of Nursing

Larry Hogan, Governor · Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor · Robert R. Neall, Secretary

February 27, 2020

The Honorable Delores G. Kelley, Chair
Senate Finance Committee
3 East, Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401-1991

RE: SB0494 - Health Care Facilities - Dialysis Treatment Services - Training (Dialysis Parity Act) – Letter of Support

Dear Chair Kelley:

The Maryland Board of Nursing (Board) respectfully submits this letter of Support for SB0494 -Health Care Facilities - Dialysis Treatment Services - Training (Dialysis Parity Act). This bill prohibits a health care facility from providing peritoneal dialysis or hemodialysis treatment services unless the individual performing the dialysis procedure has been trained in the peritoneal dialysis or hemodialysis technique being performed. It establishes civil penalties not exceeding \$5,000 for each violation of the Act.

Dialysis centers and facilities with dialysis units employ registered nurses to care for dialysis patients and perform dialysis procedures. During hemodialysis, an outside machine cleans a patient's blood. Peritoneal dialysis involves cleaning blood inside the body with a special fluid.¹ In both of these cases, a dialysis nurse attaches the machine or equipment to the patient, assesses the patient's vital statistics before and after their dialysis procedure, monitors the procedure as it occurs, and records relevant notes and data about the process. Dialysis nurses also teach patients about their kidney conditions, the role of dialysis and medication, and how patients can best care for themselves.²

The Board supports SB 492 because it is consistent with the language in COMAR 10.27.19.02 which states:

B. A nurse may not, when acting in the capacity or identity of a licensed nurse:

- (3) Perform new techniques and procedures without adequate education and practice;
- (4) Assume duties and responsibilities in the practice of nursing without adequate preparation or without maintaining competency;

¹ Nurse Journal, <https://nursejournal.org/dialysis-nursing/dialysis-nurse-careers-salary-outlook/>

² Ibid.

The Board believes that holding health care facilities accountable for ensuring that the individuals performing dialysis procedures receives the appropriate training fosters its mission of protecting the public through safe nursing practice.

For the reasons discussed above, the Board of Nursing submits this letter of support for SB0494.

For more information, please contact Rhonda Scott, Deputy Director, at (410) – 585 – 1953 (rhonda.scott2@maryland.gov) or Karen E. B. Evans, Executive Director, at (410) – 585 – 1914 (karene.evans@maryland.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gary N. Hicks".

Gary N. Hicks
Board President

The opinion of the Board expressed in this document does not necessarily reflect that of the Department of Health or the Administration.