Continuous Renal Replacement Therapy (CRRT)

Continuous Renal Replacement Therapy (CRRT) is a form of dialysis used for intensive care unit (ICU) patients. A smaller amount of blood is removed from your body using a smaller filter. It is a more gentle process with slower blood flow and removal of waste and extra fluids. You may hear it called Prisma by staff.

About CRRT

CRRT is used for patients whose kidneys are not working well, and may be too sick to have other forms of dialysis. It is done at the bedside, not in the Dialysis Unit, and better tolerated than other forms of dialysis when the blood pressure is low and unstable.

- A doctor must put in a special dialysis catheter or small tube which the nurse attaches to the Prisma machine. The pump within the machine moves blood from the blood tube into the dialysis filter. A filter will slowly clean the blood and remove extra water. The extra water and wastes will be measured. The clean blood will then return to your body through a different blood tube. This process works continuously like a person who has healthy kidneys.

- This treatment continues (usually 24 hours a day) until the kidneys can work on their own, or the patient is well enough to tolerate regular hemodialysis. Patients on CCRT will stay in the intensive care unit and are watched closely by the nurses and doctors during treatment.

More on next page ➔

Learn more about your health care.
While on CRRT therapy you can expect:

- Frequent checks of heart rate and blood pressure
- Frequent blood tests through the blood tube
- Daily weights
- Bed rest
- Monitoring of fluid status

Talk to your doctor or others on your health care team if you have questions. You may request more written information from the Library for Health Information at (614) 293-3707 or email: health-info@osu.edu.