Inpatient Apheresis: Benefits and the Value of Partnership

Apheresis is a procedure in which a small volume of blood is temporarily removed from a patient and separated into fluid (plasma) and solid (cells) components. This is done using either a centrifuge or a filter. The procedure can remove unwanted components of the blood, such as pathologic cells, unwanted antibodies, abnormal proteins or heavy metals. It can also replace healthy blood components, such as whole plasma, clotting factors or red blood cells, before the volume of blood is returned to the patient.

Types of apheresis include the following:

- **Plasma exchange**: Removes and replaces the fluid component of the blood. This can be useful for some neurologic and immunologic issues.
- **Cytopheresis**: Removes specific cells from the blood. This can be useful for blood- and cancer-related issues. In some cases, abnormal cells are replaced with healthy cells.
- **Photopheresis**: Separates plasma and exposes it to ultraviolet light and a special medication. This can be useful for graft-versus-host disease.
- **Lipid apheresis**: Removes low density lipoprotein, or “bad cholesterol.” This can be useful for patients with high cholesterol.

Benefits of Outsourcing Apheresis

Apheresis patients often have multiple comorbidities. They can also experience complications with the apheresis, as with any medical procedure. While apheresis can be provided in both inpatient and outpatient settings (including outpatient portions of hospitals, such as infusion sites), because of potential complications, many patients may benefit from initiating the therapy in a hospital.

Providing apheresis can involve significant investments, including hiring additional staff, tracking adverse events and managing quality control. Hospitals often decide to outsource apheresis services in order to reduce capital expenditure and to eliminate the need to internally develop nursing expertise and treatment policies.

With proven outcomes, clinical expertise, cutting-edge staff training, and professional reporting capabilities, DaVita has partnered with many hospitals to deliver high-quality apheresis therapy.

For more information, email hospitals@davita.com.

© 2019 DaVita Inc. HSG18-001-Apheresis Flier

**Why to Consider Offering Inpatient Apheresis**

Offering apheresis can help you:

- Meet physician demand for increased therapeutic options
- Achieve evidence-based benefits in clinical outcomes¹
- Promote high-quality patient care
- Build market share by providing therapeutic options for oncology, hematology, neurology and nephrology patients
- Possibly receive direct reimbursement for some indications