



Minutes Matter: The Risks of Shortened and Missed Treatments

It is very important that you receive your full dialysis treatments as your doctor has prescribed. Coming for every treatment and staying for the full time is important to getting “adequate” dialysis. You may not think cutting treatment by 30 minutes or missing a treatment once a week makes a difference, but over time every minute adds up. See the charts below on how time missed for a 4 hour treatment adds up.



Fluid overload. Too much fluid can cause shortness of breath and possible hospitalization.



Severe cramping and hypotension at the next treatment because extra fluid will have to be removed.



Missing injected medications can worsen anemia and bone disease.



High potassium can cause heart problems, including irregular heartbeat, heart attack, and/or death.



High blood pressure can cause a stroke which can lead to permanent disability and/or death.

Missed Treatments	Dialysis Minutes	Dialysis Hours	Months of Treatment
1	240	4	.08
2	480	8	.15
3	720	12	.23
4	960	16	.31
5	1,200	20	.38
6	1,440	24	.46
7	1,680	28	.54
8	1,920	32	.62
9	2,160	36	.69
10	2,400	40	.77
11	2,640	44	.85
12	2,880	48	.92
13	3,120	52	1



Cut 15 minutes per treatment



45 minutes a week



3 hours and 15 minutes a month



3 weeks in a year!

For more information or to file a grievance, please contact:

ESRD Network 10 (IL)
911 E. 86th St., Suite 202
Indianapolis, IN 46240
Toll Free: (800) 456-6919

ESRDNetwork10@qsource.org

ESRD Network 12 (IA, KS, MO, NE)
920 Main, Suite 801
Kansas City, MO 64105
Toll Free: (800) 444-9965

ESRDNetwork12@qsource.org



ESRDNetwork10.org | ESRDNetwork12.org

This resource was developed while under contract with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), an agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Contract #HHSM-500-2016-00010C and #HHSM-500-2016-00012C. The contents presented do not necessarily reflect CMS policy. 20.Q-ESRD.10.