

Emergency Preparedness Information for Saskatchewan Dialysis Patients





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# Introduction

Emergencies caused by severe weather, disasters or pandemic illness can happen with or without warning. Power, water, transportation and supplies are very important if you are on dialysis. Dialysis services may be disrupted during an emergency situation, making it impossible for you to get to your dialysis unit or perform home dialysis. It is important to be prepared so you can stay well and maintain your health until the emergency situation ends.

This guide has helpful information to assist people when regular dialysis services are disrupted during emergencies. The tips in this booklet <u>may not</u> work for every patient or in every emergency situation. You may have special health problems or conditions that need to be handled differently. Talk to your Kidney Doctor (nephrologist) and your dialysis health team to discuss which tips in this booklet can work for you and which tips need to be adjusted.

This booklet contains:

- Helpful tips
- How to prepare for an emergency
- How to disinfect water
- Helpful contacts for more information

**Remember:** 

Hemodialysis centers may not be able to give your regularly scheduled dialysis treatments.

- You should always ask your doctor for medical advice.
- If you need emergency medical attention, call 911 or the emergency number for your areas of the province.

# When to Update your Information with your Dialysis Unit

#### **All Dialysis Patients**

- Make sure your dialysis unit has your current street address and phone number in case they need to contact you.
- Make sure your dialysis unit has the name and phone number of an alternate contact person.
- Make sure you have the address and phone number of your dialysis unit.
- Make arrangements for backup transportation to your dialysis unit.
- In the event of an evacuation or any other emergency situation that disrupts your dialysis treatment schedule, please notify your dialysis unit.

# Be Prepared in Case of Emergency

#### **Gather and Carry Important Medical Information**

If you must go to a different dialysis unit or hospital for treatments or other health care during an emergency, the healthcare team needs to know your medical status to provide the best care for you.

#### Keep the following information with you at all times:

- Medical condition and history. Fill in the medical history card <u>Emergency Preparedness ID Card -</u> <u>Dialysis Patients (CS-PIER-0228)</u>. Ask your dialysis nurse for assistance if you have any questions or need help filling out the form.
- **Current medication list**. This includes prescription and non-prescription medicines including vitamins, herbals and natural health supplements.
- Name, location and contact numbers for your regular dialysis unit.
- **Dialysis specific information.** This includes information such as type of dialysis and type of access you have. It should also include your most current dialysis prescription, which you can take a snapshot or a copy with you. [Emergency Preparedness ID Card Dialysis Patients (CS-PIER-0228)]
- **Provide any non-dialysis unit/hospital with the contact information for your dialysis unit**. They will contact us to get specific instructions for how to manage your care during this time. Ensure your next of kin knows this information as well, so they can provide it in the event that you are unable.



The <u>Emergency Preparedness ID Card - Dialysis Patients (CS-PIER-0228)</u> will help organize your information. Keep it with you at all times. It is found at the end of this booklet.

### **Communications during a Disaster**

- **Radio broadcasts** will be your most reliable source of information. Find out what your local emergency radio station is.
- **Telephone access during an emergency**. Landlines are the least prone to outages and power disruptions.
- Learn how to send a text message. Texts use less battery power and are more likely to go through when the cell network is busy, or reception is poor.

# Helpful Tips during an Emergency including Pandemic

- Stay at home, unless you are hurt.
- Phone 811 to determine whether you need to seek medical attention.
- It is important to stay away from public areas during a pandemic, such as malls, churches, or any area where you could be in contact with others who may be ill. Instructions for dialysis patients may be available on TV, radio, phone, or messenger. You may want to call your dialysis unit.
- If you must be away from home, take a fanny pack or backpack stocked with emergency supplies, food and medication.
- If you must go to an emergency shelter, tell the person in charge of your healthcare needs.
- If your next regular dialysis treatment is delayed, start your emergency diet as soon as an emergency situation is predicted or occurs.
- **Be assured** that if an emergency causes a disruption to your treatment, the dialysis unit will be working to ensure you get the necessary treatments as soon as possible.
- Patients must take responsibility as much as possible to get where they have to go, keep in contact with the unit, and be available to come for hemodialysis at any time day or night.
- If you need medical treatment, make sure your dialysis access (graft, fistula, hemodialysis line) is not used for anything except your dialysis treatment. NO ONE should use your access to give you intravenous fluids or medications unless approved by your Nephrologist.
- Keep an extra pair of eyeglasses with your emergency supplies.

#### Home Dialysis Patients:

- Keep an additional 5 to 7 days of dialysis supplies at home and any location where you may spend significant time (i.e., cottage). Check expiration dates and rotate with your monthly deliveries.
- If supplies cannot be delivered to your home, contact your home dialysis unit.
- Electrical services may be interrupted if the emergency continues for a prolonged period of time. Keep a flashlight with charged batteries near your dialysis machine.
- If you use continuous cyclic peritoneal dialysis (CCPD) and the power is interrupted, switch to continuous ambulatory peritoneal dialysis (CAPD) as prescribed.

## Travel

During an emergency event, people are encouraged to stay home unless directed otherwise by public safety officials. There may be travel restrictions imposed provincially and/or nationally in the event of a pandemic. If there are no travel restrictions in Saskatchewan and/or Canada, these are the things that you should consider:

- Peritoneal Dialysis Make arrangements for peritoneal dialysis at your destination. Have necessary
  equipment or supplies delivered ahead of time. Inform your home dialysis unit of your travel plans. If
  travel restrictions are imposed while you are away, you may not be able to return to your home.
  Additional delivery of supplies to your visiting location may not be possible.
- **Carry an extra 2 to 3 day supply** of medications and peritoneal dialysis supplies in hand-carried luggage, fanny pack or backpack. If your luggage is lost or misplaced, you will still be able to take your medicine or do your peritoneal dialysis until your luggage is found or you can get more supplies. Keep in mind that additional deliveries of peritoneal dialysis supplies to your visiting location may not be possible.

Hospitals **may not** be able to provide maintenance hemodialysis to those travelling during emergencies. If an emergency happens, you may want to cut your travel plans short and return home, as transient dialysis may be cancelled. Check with your regular hemodialysis unit before making any other travel arrangements.

- Carry current next of kin, medication and medical contact lists with you at all times.
- Tell a family member, friend or next of kin of your travel plans.

We encourage you to use the provided wallet card or your phone's emergency contact option to ensure that you always have emergency contact info.

• **Medical alert** or wallet cards are essential for providing healthcare providers with critical information when you

are unable to communicate. Wearing a Medic Alert device, such as a bracelet or necklace, ensures that medical staff can quickly identify important health details, like being on dialysis, having diabetes, or being allergic to penicillin. The device displays an internationally recognized symbol and includes a phone number for accessing further medical information.

Carrying the associated medical information card can reduce the need for additional calls to the alert registry. Having a Medic Alert device helps ensure you receive the proper care, or avoid harmful treatments, especially when away from home.

# Medications

- **Know** what medications you are taking, their names, strength, and how often you take them. (for example, Tums 500 mg/one with each meal and at bedtime).
- Know which medications are absolutely necessary for your survival.
- **Carry a list of medications** (amount, frequency, names, strength) with you at all times. Make sure that the list is updated when you get new medications.

Keep a minimum of 3 days emergency supply on hand at all times. Rotate the medication every 2 to 3 months, and check expiration dates. **Take this with you if you are evacuated.** Also, remember to include other medications like your eye drops, injections, inhalers and patches in your emergency medicine supply.

**If you travel,** carry your medications in your hand-carried baggage and do not let it out of sight. In disasters, luggage always gets lost or misplaced. **Suggestion:** Keep the medication in a "fanny pack" that you can wear, not carry. That way, your hands are free. Bring enough medication to last 1 to 2 week(s) longer than your planned trip. Periodically check this supply to make sure it has not expired.

Have non-prescription drugs and other health supplies at home, including pain relievers, first aid kits, cough cold medicine and other medications recommended by your healthcare team.

**If you have diabetes,** remember to pack diabetic supplies such as glucose tablets, test strips, lancets/ replacement sensors for scanners, your glucometer and insulin.

## **Medic Alert**

**Medical alert** or wallet cards are essential for providing healthcare providers with critical information when you are unable to communicate. Wearing a Medic Alert device, such as a bracelet or necklace, ensures that medical staff can quickly identify important health details, like being on dialysis, having diabetes, or being allergic to penicillin. The device displays an internationally recognized symbol and includes a phone number for accessing further medical information. Carrying the associated medical information card can reduce the need for additional calls to the alert registry. Having a Medic Alert device helps ensure you receive the proper care, or avoid harmful treatments, especially when away from home.



ALERT: A necklace might be missed if your upper body clothes are rolled up. A bracelet is easy to see but it <u>should not</u> be worn on the same arm as your dialysis fistula or graft because it could block the blood flow.

#### To learn more about Medic Alert:

- Ask your nurse or social worker for information.
- Ask your community pharmacist for information.
   Many community pharmacies stock and sell Medic Alert jewelry, etc.
- Pick up the application form in your dialysis unit.
- Call the Medic Alert toll free number **1-800-668-1507**.
- Visit the Medic Alert website at https://www.medicalert.ca MedicAlert Foundation Canada | We Speak When You Can't



# **Emergency Diet Plan**

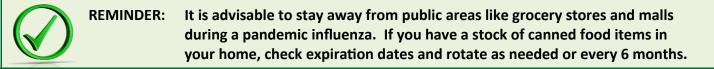


ALERT: This diet plan is not a substitute for dialysis and only meant to sustain you when dialysis is unavailable.

#### Know the Emergency Diet to follow if your Dialysis Treatments are Delayed or Altered.

 Dialysis takes the waste from your blood. Wastes and fluid build up between dialysis treatments. Normally this buildup is small and does not cause a problem between regular dialysis treatments. If your dialysis must be delayed, these wastes and fluids can add up and cause problems. Your life can depend on limiting the amount of wastes and fluid that builds up in your blood by changing your diet.

If you are UNABLE to receive dialysis during a disaster or emergency, follow the Emergency Diet Plan. You will need to eat less potassium, protein, phosphorus and fluids than usual. High levels of these in your body could be life threatening.



Look at this diet plan with your kidney dietitian to see if it will work for you, or to see if it needs to be modified to fit your special health needs. This gives you a chance to ask questions before an emergency occurs.

#### **Preparing your Emergency Pack**

- Keep a minimum 3-day supply of foods and equipment for your "emergency diet" in a backpack or an easy-to-carry bag that can be carried by one person. Store it in an easily accessible place.
   This way, you can quickly move to a shelter or travel elsewhere for dialysis, if necessary.
- Select foods you can replace regularly so they will not get too old.
- You may not have electricity, water or cooking equipment, so plan meals that do not need to be cooked.
- Keep important equipment such as a can opener and hand sanitizers in your backpack.
- Keep a copy of these guidelines with your food supply (in your pack) and at your work.



NOTE: Check your pack every 6 months for expired dates and swap out food close to expiry with new items.

#### While planning for an emergency, follow these guidelines:

- Follow the emergency diet meal plan until dialysis is available again.
- Do not have more the 500mL (2 cups/16 oz) of fluid a day. You can chew gum or suck on hard candies to help with thirst.
- Do not use salt or salt substitutes. Use salt-free food when possible. Remember that foods lower in salt will make you less thirsty.
- Limit potatoes, tomato sauce/paste, tomato soup, vegetable and fruit juice, and foods with potassium "additives."
- Try to avoid canned foods with potassium additives. For example, look for the word "potassium" in the ingredient list such as "potassium chloride, potassium lactate, potassium phosphate, or potassium citrate."
- Eat less foods that are high in protein, such as meat, fish, poultry, eggs and peanut butter.
- If you have diabetes, use instant glucose, sugar and hard candies.
- If you are being evacuated and have time, add some butter or margarine to your pack for extra calories.
- Some emergencies (such as a snowstorm) allow you to stay in your home, but you may not be able to get to dialysis for a while. You may be able to use fresh or frozen foods in place of some foods from your Emergency Diet Meal plan; **use these foods first**. If your power goes out, foods in your fridge will keep for 1 to 2 days if the door is only opened briefly; **use these foods first**.

### Emergency Supplies for Multi-day Survival: Food

Line the pack with a plastic garbage bag to keep it dry. An orange (or other bright color) bag could be used as an emergency signal.

**If you have diabetes,** keep instant glucose tablets, sugar and hard candy on hand to treat low blood sugar. Do NOT use fruit juice or sugared pop to treat low blood sugar as this will add to your daily fluid intake.

#### Suggested Foods:

- 12 4 ounce(125mL) cans of fruit— applesauce, pears, peaches, pineapple only
- 1 small box shredded wheat biscuits or puffed rice/wheat
- 1 box low-salt crackers
- 1 box low-salt cookies (like vanilla wafers, digestive cookies, etc.)
- 2 bottles jelly, jam or honey
- 3 bags hard candy (barley sugar, humbugs, peppermints, hard fruit candies)
- 4 85-213g cans of low-salt tuna or salmon or 156g lower sodium cans flaked chicken or turkey
- 1 small jar of peanut butter (optional)
- 1 container almond/oat/soy/rice milk or 100g package skim milk powder or 1 can evaporated milk
- 1 2-liter bottle of water or water disinfection equipment (see page 13)

### Sample Emergency Diet Meal Plan

#### Breakfast

- 1 cup cold cereal (puffed wheat, puffed rice or 2 shredded wheat biscuits)
- <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> cup almond/oat/soy/rice milk

#### 

- 5 low-salt crackers with 2 tablespoons jelly, jam or honey
- ½ cup canned fruit\* (packed in juice); drink the juice and count as part of your daily fluid intake

#### Snack

- 4 cookies
- ½ cup canned fruit\* (packed in juice); drink the juice and count as part of your daily fluid intake

#### Lunch

- 15 low-salt crackers with 6 tablespoon jelly, jam or honey
- ½ cup canned fruit\* (packed in juice); drink the juice and count as part of your daily fluid intake
- Hard candy

#### Snack

- 4 cookies
- ½ cup canned fruit\* (packed in juice); drink the juice and count as part of your daily fluid intake

#### Dinner

• 1 can (85-170 grams) drained tuna or salmon (preferable low-salt)

#### <u>OR</u>

- 1 can (156 grams) lower sodium flaked chicken or turkey
- **15** low-salt crackers with 4 tablespoons jelly, jam or honey
- ½ cup canned fruit\* (packed in juice); drink the juice and count as part of your daily fluid intake
- If you are hungry, you can have another 10 low-salt crackers and 6 cookies each day.
- You could also have 2 tablespoons peanut butter.
- Repeat this meal plan until dialysis is available.
- See Food Substitution List
- Canned fruit\* [example: Applesauce, pears, peaches, or pineapple that are low in sodium and potassium.]

# **Food Substitution List**

Use this if you need to change your diet based on what food is available to you:

Food Items	Substitutions
<ul> <li>1 can (85-170 grams) tuna or salmon         <u>OR</u></li> <li>1 can (85-170 grams) low-sodium flaked         chicken/turkey</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>2 - 3 oz low-salt meat, fish, poultry <u>OR</u></li> <li>2 eggs</li> </ul>
• 5 unsalted crackers	<ul> <li>1 slice of bread <ul> <li><u>OR</u></li> <li>4 slices white melba toast</li> <li><u>OR</u></li> <li>2 graham wafers <ul> <li><u>OR</u></li> <li>½ cup plain rice or noodles</li> </ul> </li> </ul></li></ul>
• ½ cup canned fruit	<ul> <li>1 small apple </li> <li><u>OR</u> </li> <li>½ cup fresh or frozen berries</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>½ cup reconstituted evaporated milk or powdered skim milk</li> </ul>	• ½ cup fresh milk or cream

# **Emergency Supplies for Multi-day Survival: Equipment**

- Can opener
- Pocket knife/Swiss army knife
- Whistle
- Pair of scissors
- Waterproof matches and candles
- Flashlight (battery or hand crank)
- Radio (battery or hand crank)
- Batteries for flashlight and radio with spares
- Basic first aid kit
- Water purification tablets

- 2L container for water purification
- Household bleach and eye dropper for water purification (if no tablets)
- Aluminum foil
- Container with lid
- Ziploc bags
- Plastic garbage bags—orange or brightly colored can also be used as emergency signals
- Paper towels

# Safe Water

During an emergency situation, safe drinking water may become an issue and you may need to purify water for use. Contaminated water can cause disease. You should purify all potentially contaminated water before using it. Water safety alerts will be issued by the provincial public health agency. Pay attention to water alerts on radio, TV and in the newspaper.

Keep distilled or bottled water on hand for drinking. If you run out of stored water, you may disinfect available water for drinking, brushing teeth, or for other uses.



ALERT: DO NOT USE DISINFECTED WATER FOR DIALYSIS.

Do not use water from a swimming pool or spa because they contain water treatment chemicals that are not safe for ingestion.

#### **Boiling Water**

If a "boil order" is issued in your community, follow these instructions:

- Fill a large pot with water from the tap.
- Strain the water through cheesecloth, sheet, coffee filter or other clean, porous material to remove as many solids as you can.
- Bring the water to a rumbling boil and keep it boiling for at least 10 minutes.
- Pour the water back and forth between two clean pots. This will help it cool and will also add air to the water to make it taste better.

#### **Disinfecting Water**

You can use household bleach to kill bacteria without the use of a heat source. Bleach should be 5.25% sodium hypochlorite. Do not use scented, colour safe, or bleaches with added ingredients.

- Using a dropper, add 8 drops of liquid chlorine bleach for each gallon of water. Let the water stand for 30 minutes. If it gives off a slight chlorine odour and looks clear, it is safe to use.
- If you do not smell chlorine, or if the water is still cloudy, add another 8 drops of liquid chlorine bleach and let it stand another 30 minutes. If you have added bleach twice and the water still does not smell like chlorine, do not use the water for drinking or cooking.

#### Keep bleach well away from food, children and pets. Consider it a potential hazard.

Water purification devices and tablets are a safe and effective alternative to household bleach and can be bought at many camping and outdoor supply stores. Be sure they contain 5.25% sodium hypochlorite.


## Resources

- 1. "Manitoba Renal Program," December 17, 2018. https://www.kidneyhealth.ca.
- 2. Canada, Public Health Agency of. "Emergency Preparedness and Response." Navigation page, July 23, 2004. https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/emergency-preparedness-response.html.
- 3. "Emergency Preparedness." Accessed October 21, 2024. http://www.bcrenal.ca/health-info/kidneycare/emergency-preparedness.
- 4. "Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19)." Accessed October 21, 2024. https://www.who.int/emergencies/ diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019.
- 5. Kidney Disease Improving Global Outcomes (KDIGO) 2024 Clinical Practice Guideline for the Evaluation and Management of Kidney Disease. Accessed December 10, 2024. https://kdigo.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/KDIGO-2024-CKD-Guideline.pdf.
- Kidney Disease Outcomes Quality Initiative (KDOQI) Clinical Practice Guideline for Nutrition in CKD: 2020 Update, National Kidney Foundation. Accessed December 10, 2024. https://www.ajkd.org/article/ S0272-6386(20)30726-5/fulltext.
- 7. "Potassium Management in Kidney Disease." Accessed December 10, 2024. http://www.bcrenal.ca/ resource-gallery/Documents/Potassium\_Management\_in\_Kidney\_Disease.pdf

# **Helpful Canadian Websites**

- Safe Canada: http://www.safecanada.ca/beprepared/beprepared\_e.asp
- Saskatchewan Government COVID 19 information: https://www.saskatchewan.ca/covid19
- Government of Canada Emergency Planning: <u>https://www.getprepared.gc.ca/index-en.aspx</u>



# Healthy People, Healthy Saskatchewan

The Saskatchewan Health Authority works in the spirit of truth and reconciliation, acknowledging Saskatchewan as the traditional territory of First Nations and Métis People.

**PIER**—Patient Information and Education Resource

JANUARY 2025





# **Emergency Preparedness**

# Medical Condition and History

# NOTE: A copy of this sheet should be with you at all times.

If you need to go to another hospital or clinic in the event of a disaster, or if your records are unavailable or destroyed, this information will help any temporary care givers in understanding your special needs. You should update this annually and when treatment changes.

Date Completed:	
Primary Reason for Kidney Disease:	
Other Medical Conditions:	
Blood Type (if known):	



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**Medical Condition and History** 

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### You should update this annually and when treatment changes.

Date Completed:	
Primary Reason for Kidney Disease:	
Other Medical Conditions:	
Blood Type (if known):	



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# **Current Medication List and Allergies**

• List prescription and non-prescription medicines including vitamins, herbals and natural health supplements you are currently taking. You should update this list annually and any time when prescription changes.

Date Completed:		
Allergies:		
	Current Me	edications:

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# **Current Medication List and Allergies**

• List prescription and non-prescription medicines including vitamins, herbals and natural health supplements you are currently taking. You should update this list annually and any time when prescription changes.

Date Completed:		
Allergies:		
	Current Me	edications:







# **Emergency Preparedness**

# **Patient Contact Information**



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		<b>-</b>		Catall

□ Home Hemodialysis

□ Home Peritoneal Dialysis

Hemodialy	/sis: 🛛 In-Centre	Satellite
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□ Both Peritoneal Dialysis & Home Hemodialysis (Hybrid)

ame:		
ealth Card Number:	Date of Birth:	
ddress:		
none Number:	Email:	
nergency Contact Name 1:		
none Number:	Email:	
nergency Contact Name 2:		

**Phone Number:** 



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# **Emergency Preparedness**

# **Patient Contact Information**

# I am a kidney/dialysis patient: (Please check box)

- □ Hemodialysis: □ In-Centre □ Satellite
- □ Home Hemodialysis

□ Home Peritoneal Dialysis

		'			
Both	Peritoneal	Dial	/sis &	S.	Ноі

Email:

me Hemodialysis (Hybrid)

Name:		
Health Card Number:	Date of Birth:	
Address:		
Phone Number:	Email:	
Emergency Contact Name 1:		
Phone Number:	Email:	
Emergency Contact Name 2:		
Phone Number:	Email:	







Dialysis-Specific Information For PD Patients		Hybrid Peritoneal & Hemodialysis Prescription				
Date Completed:		Contact PD Clinic/Nephrologist for PD Prescription to reflect current therapy changes.				
Name of Dialysis Center:		<b>Type of PD:</b> Manual/Twin Bag  Cycler  Hybrid PD & HD				
Address:		Hybrid PD & HD	Dialysis Catheter	Lumen length: Locking solution:		
		Type of	<ul><li>□ Fistula</li><li>□ Graft</li></ul>	□ Left □ Right	<ul><li>Upper Arm</li><li>Lower Arm</li></ul>	
Phone:		Access:			□ Leg	
Family Physician's		Dialyzer:	Dialysis Flow RatemL/min			
Name:		Dialysate:	Calcium	Potassium		
Nephrologist			Sodium	Bicarbonat	.e	
Name:	Dialysis Schedule: h			hourstimes/week		
Other Important	t	Dry Weight: Blood Flow Rate:mL/min			te:mL/min	
Information and Phone Numbers:		Anticoagulat	tion: 🗌 🗌 None	units	ONCE per HD	



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Dialysis-Specific Information For PD Patients		Hemodialysis/Home Hemodialysis Prescription			
Date Completed:		Type of	Dialysis	Lumen lengt	th:
Name of Dialysis Center:		Access:	Catheter	Locking solution:	
Address:			<ul><li>Fistula</li><li>Graft</li></ul>	□ Left □ Right	<ul><li>Upper Arm</li><li>Lower Arm</li><li>Leg</li></ul>
Phone:		Dialyzer:		Dialysis Flow	RatemL/min
Family Physician's Name:		Dialysate:	Calcium Potassium Sodium Bicarbonate		
Nephrologist Name:		Dialysis Schedule:  hours  times/weel			
Other Important		Dry Weight: Blood Flow Rate:mL/min			
Information and Phone Numbers:		Anticoagulation:  units ONCE per HD None			s ONCE per HD



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