

PRESS RELEASE

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NHS Kidney Care welcomes Secretary of State's commitment to home dialysis

NHS Kidney Care has welcomed the Secretary of State's support for patients who wish to dialyse at home.

NHS Kidney Care has announced a package of measures to help kidney services improve choice for patients wishing to dialyse at home with the aim of enabling all patients to make an informed choice – in consultation with their clinicians - from a full range of clinically appropriate treatment options.

Many patients choose to dialyse at home. It removes their need to travel to renal units or satellites, gives them greater flexibility about how often and when they dialyse and allows them to take more responsibility for their own care. The majority of patients who dialyse at home are on peritoneal dialysis. Home haemodialysis currently only accounts for 1-2% of the total number of patients on haemodialysis though the numbers of patients varies considerably between units.

Nutritional status, physiological markers, quality of life and patient survival are improved on home haemodialysis compared to both facility-based and peritoneal dialysis. This is believed to be because patients are able to dialyse more frequently and are more engaged in managing their own condition.

Home haemodialysis is cost effective when compared to haemodialysis in a hospital or satellite setting.

NHS Kidney Care and the Department of Health will work with the NHS to improve the provision of home haemodialysis in line with NICE recommendations.

NHS Kidney Care has:

- Produced a report, *Improving Choice for Kidney Patients: Home Dialysis*, which identifies the key barriers with potential solutions and examples of 'what works'
- Developed a 'toolkit' for commissioners and providers via the NHS Kidney Care website, which includes access to model business cases.
- A framework for accessing its problem-solving fund for Kidney Care Networks to overcome local barriers to implementation. This might for example be used to devise the best local arrangement for support services for patients at home
- Published information for patients and carers including dialysis patients' stories, videos showing what to expect, and on the benefits of dialysing at home
- Worked with NHS evidence to develop a comprehensive list of publications on dialysis at home.

Dr Donal O'Donoghue, the National Clinical Director for Kidney Care will lead workshops in each region to facilitate sharing of best practice in overcoming barriers to choice and provision of home treatment to drive and support change. These will take place in the first half of the next financial year.

Dr O'Donoghue said: "Shared decision making is the key to good outcomes for people with advanced kidney disease. The work of NHS Kidney Care is making that a reality for more people and my goal is that 100 percent of people have choice. Home haemodialysis should be part of that choice available to all patients as a potential option in every kidney unit in the land."

Speaking about the announcement, Beverley Matthews, Director of NHS Kidney Care said: "This is great news for kidney patients. We know that many patients will benefit from having the choice of dialysing at home and we are determined to support them and the clinicians who look after them to achieve this."

Ends

Notes to editors

1. NHS Kidney Care works with clinical teams and commissioners of kidney care to look at the services they offer to patients with kidney disease. Its vision is to improve the patient experience by enabling consistent implementation of the National Service Framework for Renal Services, a government pledge to raise the standards of care for all kidney patients. www.kidneycare.nhs.uk
2. There are approximately 21,000 patients currently receiving dialysis treatment in England. The number of patients requiring renal replacement therapy (dialysis or transplantation) is increasing at around 4% per year.
3. It is estimated that around one third of dialysis patients (7,000+) may choose to opt for dialysis at home. In particular NICE have previously suggested that 10 to 15% of dialysis patients may opt for home haemodialysis (whereas currently 2% do so). In theory, more than one third of patients could choose home therapies provided it was clinically appropriate for them.
4. Work by NHS Kidney Care on reference costs for dialysis showed the annual costs of home haemodialysis to be up to 25% less than in-centre dialysis, based on data returns from 16 units. However, releasing savings in practice will depend on a range of factors including the set up costs, treatment regimen, and training and support needs in any individual case. As referenced by NICE, previous studies have demonstrated that initial costs of home haemodialysis are recouped within a period of approximately 14 months.

Issued by NHS Kidney Care. For further information, please contact Claire Austin on Claire.austin@dakc.nhs.uk or telephone 07825 342356. Visit our website at www.kidneycare.nhs.uk.