



Understanding Home Hemodialysis (HHD) as an Option

Use this resource during a staff meeting or huddle to:

- Provide patients with education on the benefits of dialyzing at home.
- Empower staff to feel comfortable talking with patients about and referring them to a home hemodialysis program.

Important Facts

- **Schedule:** Many different schedules are available and can be arranged at home (e.g., short daily dialysis, extended dialysis). HHD allows more freedom to fit treatments into personal schedules and to choose day or night treatment times.
- **Care partners:** Patients and care partners undergo extensive training before patients go through treatment alone. The home nurse will provide one-on-one training to the patient and care partner until they are both comfortable dialyzing at home. The home clinic nurse will be available 24/7 either in the facility during business hours or after-hours by phone. Care partners don't need a medical background to support their friend or loved one.
- **Pets:** Yes, HHD patients can have pets! Patients should clean the space in which they are dialyzing well and ensure pets stay out of the room when connecting or disconnecting from the machine.
- **Costs:** Basic dialysis supplies (e.g., dialyzers, lines, needles, tape, gauze pads, dialysate, home scale, laboratory supplies) are paid for by insurance, just as they are in a dialysis facility. Sometimes there are minor plumbing or electrical updates needed to fit the machine. There may also be initial costs to set up supply storage, such as shelving.
- **Bleeding at home:** There are safety device alarms that alerts the home hemodialysis patient if any blood is detected around the needle insertion site. Patients have time to react to the alarms, fix the problems, or disconnect from the machine. Not all patients will need this device.

Facilitate Communication

- What can you do to support patients to get ready to be referred to home hemodialysis?
- In your role, how might you help patients understand the benefits of home hemodialysis?

Resources

- [Home Hemodialysis May Be the Best Option for You](#)
- [Uncovering Myths About Home Dialysis](#)