

HOME HAEMODIALYSIS PROTOCOL

Selection of Patients for Home Haemodialysis

- Patients should have a problem-free permanent dialysis access. Training is often prolonged if permanent access is not established.
- Patients should be medically stable, particularly from the cardiovascular & diabetic viewpoint and be free of complications and significant concomitant disease that would render HHD unsuitable or unsafe.
- The patient or their partner /carer performing the dialysis should have adequate visual acuity, hearing, dexterity and intellectual and reading ability to learn and perform haemodialysis.
- Patients need to have adequate physical strength and should be physically capable of self care.
- The patient's mental state and social situation should be stable enough to learn and perform dialysis at home. Social Worker and Psychologist reviews may be required prior to commencing training.
- Patients should have the ability and motivation to learn to carry out the process and the commitment to maintain treatment.
- Patients should have suitable space and facilities or an area that could be adapted within their home. (Note: Patients must be living at a relatively permanent address where equipment for dialysis can be installed and a working telephone is available for use in case of an emergency). An approval is needed from the landlords of rental properties to approve the plumbing and power point modification necessary for home installations.
- The home must have a hygienic environment for dialysis.
 - The space required for dialysis is a 3m x 3m space for chair, dialysis machine and Reverse Osmosis equipment.
 - An area similar to a wardrobe with a combination of shelving and open space is needed to store a 6 week supply of fluids and disposables.
- Patients must be free from alcohol and drug use which cause drowsiness or erratic behaviour during dialysis.

- Non native speakers can be trained with a family member who speaks English or with an interpreter. However, the patient must dialyse at home with the presence of a family member who speaks English in case problems arise and a trouble shooting phone conversation with Sydney Dialysis Centre (SDC) staff is required.
- Patients must have access to quality water, sewerage and reliable electricity supplies. Patients from St George and Sutherland areas receive a city water

St George Hospital Renal Department Guideline: INTERNAL ONLY

supply which is of high quality. Patients who are dependent on rain water tanks can be dialysed using that water but the water for dialysis must be tested prior to machine installation. Bore water can be tested but is rarely suitable for dialysis.

- A supportive family is a benefit for the HHD patient but patients who live by themselves can perform solo dialysis. The training time is usually longer and the patient must be assessed to be independent, confident and competent with the dialysis procedure in all emergency situations.