



# Peritoneal dialysis at home

## Information for patients from the Renal Department

You have been given this leaflet, as you are considering peritoneal dialysis at home. This leaflet will explain:

- the advantages of having dialysis at home
- how you prepare for dialysis at home; and
- how the process works.

We hope it will help to answer some of the questions you may have. If you have any further questions or concerns, please speak to your unit consultant or nurse.

### What are the advantages to having dialysis at home?

The clear advantage to having dialysis at home, is that you can have your dialysis treatments on days and at a time most convenient to you.

### Other benefits to dialysing at home

- Improved quality of life and wellbeing.
- Improved overall health.
- Less time spent travelling to and from hospital, and waiting for treatments.
- It may be possible to reduce / review your medications, as your blood levels further stabilise.
- More freedom with fluid and diet allowances.

### How do I prepare for dialysis at home?

Peritoneal dialysis is delivered via a permanent tube placed in your abdomen. This tube can be placed as:

- a day case procedure (you will go home the same day); or
- you may need to stay in hospital overnight.

Your nurse or consultant will discuss this with you.

### How often will I have peritoneal dialysis?

Peritoneal dialysis is a daily treatment. Fluid will always be inside your abdomen, allowing dialysis 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. When you are not using the tube, you need to secure it to your abdomen with tape.

There are two ways to perform peritoneal dialysis.

1. **Individual bags** given four times a day. Each bag exchange takes around 30 to 40 minutes. An example would be to exchange your bag at breakfast, lunch, teatime, and bedtime, but times are flexible.
2. Or, you can have an **overnight machine**, where dialysis is given overnight while you sleep. The machine can be set up in advance, before you go to bed. How long you use the machine for, depends on the amount of dialysis you need.

### Can I still go on holiday when having dialysis at home?

Yes. Holidays are easy to arrange. Dialysis fluids can be delivered to most countries. You need to speak to one of the dialysis nurses, as they will need to plan for this.

It is also important to have travel insurance in place before you travel. The Kent Kidney Patients Association (<https://www.kentkidneypatients.co.uk/>) has information regarding this.

### How often will supplies be delivered to my home?

A dialysis company will deliver supplies to your home each month. It is important that someone is home to receive the delivery.

Each month the company will ring you for a stock take, ready for the next months delivery. It is your responsibility to make sure this is correct. If you run out of supplies, you will need to collect the shortfall from the main unit at Kent and Canterbury Hospital.

Approximately 45 boxes of dialysis fluid plus ancillaries, will be delivered to your home each month. You will need a storage area the size of a three seater sofa. **You must keep the fluid dry and frost free at all times.**

### Who should I contact if I have any questions or problems?

Although there are satellite units around Kent, home dialysis is based at Kent and Canterbury Hospital next to Marlowe Ward. Any problems with peritoneal dialysis are dealt with at the main unit on the Canterbury site. There are no peritoneal dialysis nurses in the satellite units and other hospitals.

### Will I need to come to the hospital for reviews?

Yes. You still need to come to Kent and Canterbury Hospital for routine reviews of your treatment.

There is a nurse based in the community who may be able to see you at home at short notice.

We are able to provide routine consultant reviews in whichever of our clinics is closest to your home address:

- Maidstone
- Ashford
- Margate
- Canterbury.

### Can anyone use dialysis at home?

No. Dialysis at home is not appropriate for all patients. The following are some things you and your healthcare team will need to consider before a decision is made.

- You need to be well motivated and committed to carry out your own treatments.
- You need to be able to come to clinic appointments for review of your dialysis. This will depend on how stable your treatment is going and how much support you need.
- You must have suitable space and facilities in your home.
- You must be able to show a responsibility of care to yourself. This means you are able to make safe responsible decisions about all aspects of your care.
- Not all patients are suitable for peritoneal dialysis. This could be due to previous abdominal surgery or bowel conditions.

### Who will show me what to do?

The training you will need can be done in your home or at the training centre in London. Please discuss this with the dialysis team at Kent and Canterbury Hospital.

### What if I have questions or concerns?

If you need more information about peritoneal dialysis, please contact Home Dialysis on 01227 864011. We will arrange a home visit.

### Further information

- **Kent Kidney Patients Association** (<https://www.kentkidneypatients.co.uk/>)  
Email ([info@kentkidneypatients.co.uk](mailto:info@kentkidneypatients.co.uk))  
Telephone: 07306 023445
- **National Kidney Federation** (<https://www.kidney.org.uk/>)  
Email ([nkf@kidney.org.uk](mailto:nkf@kidney.org.uk))  
Telephone: 01909 544999  
Helpline: 0800 169 0936
- **NHS: dialysis** (<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/dialysis/what-happens/>)

**This leaflet has been produced with and for patients.**

**Please let us know:**

- If you have any accessibility needs; this includes needing a hearing loop or wanting someone to come with you to your appointment.
- If you need an interpreter.
- If you need this information in another format (such as Braille, audio, large print or Easy Read).

**You can let us know this by:**

- Visiting the Trust web site (<https://www.ekhuft.nhs.uk/ais>).
- Calling the number at the top of your appointment letter.
- Adding this information to the Patient Portal (<https://pp.ekhuft.nhs.uk/login>).
- Telling a member of staff at your next appointment.

**Any complaints, comments, concerns or compliments**, please speak to a member of your healthcare team. Or contact the Patient Advice and Liaison Service on 01227 783145 or email ([ekh-tr.pals@nhs.net](mailto:ekh-tr.pals@nhs.net)).

**Patients should not bring large sums of money or valuables into hospital.** Please note that East Kent Hospitals accepts no responsibility for the loss or damage to personal property, unless the property has been handed into Trust staff for safe-keeping.

**Further patient information leaflets** are available via the East Kent Hospitals' web site (<https://www.ekhuft.nhs.uk/patient-information>).

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