

INTERESTED IN HOME HEMODIALYSIS

If you are interested in joining the Home Hemodialysis Program at Thunder Bay Regional Health Science Centre, please review the following and speak with your Nephrologist.

Anyone considering home hemodialysis must be assessed by the members of the Home Hemodialysis Program. The purpose of this assessment is for us to become familiar with your health and social history, and to identify any barriers that might prevent you from performing dialysis safely and successfully in your home.

The Home Hemodialysis Program is located at the Professional Building, on the same property as the hospital. Our telephone number is (807) 684-6159.



What is Home Hemodialysis?

Home Hemodialysis allows you to perform your hemodialysis treatment in your own home. The dialysis equipment is designed specifically for home dialysis and is supplied to you by TBRHSC. Training for home hemodialysis takes place in the Professional Building located beside the hospital.

What treatment options are offered?

There are several different options available, but at present TBRHSC only offers Conventional Hemodialysis. We are hoping to offer other options at a later date.

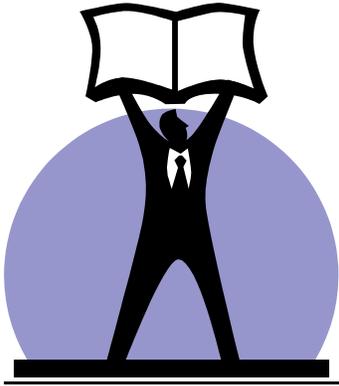
Conventional Hemodialysis- dialysis 3 times per week for an average of 4 hours each treatment

Short Daily Hemodialysis- dialysis is done 6 times per week for 2-3 hours per day

Nocturnal Hemodialysis- dialysis is 6 times per week for 6-8 hours overnight while you are sleeping

How long is the training period?

The average training period is 8 weeks. The training duration may be decreased or extended at the discretion of the home hemodialysis nurse as determined by the learner's needs.



Who does the training?

The home hemodialysis training nurses will do the training. Training is performed with only you and the training nurses. If a family member would also like to be trained they can accompany you to the training sessions and learn at the same time.

Can people who live in apartments do dialysis at home?

If someone lives in a rental property they must obtain legal written consent from the property owner for any renovations required. A consent form will be provided to you and must be signed by the property owner and witnessed before any work can be done in the rental unit.

What equipment along with the dialysis machine will I need to have in my home?

You will have a reverse osmosis (R.O.) water purification unit. This unit sits on the base of the dialysis machine. You will also have a carbon tank which removes chlorine before it enters the R.O. unit.

The carbon tank will be installed closely to the dialysis machine and R.O. as all the equipment works together.

What other supplies will I have to keep in my home?

You will have to have enough space to store Intravenous solutions, blood tubing for the dialysis machine, dialyzers, acid and bicarbonate. You will also have boxes of heparin, gauze, syringes and needles. Supplies will be delivered to your home every 2 months.

Where should I keep all of my dialysis supplies and equipment?

It is recommended that you keep your dialysis equipment and supplies in the room you will be dialyzing in. This will all be determined on a home visit prior to starting home dialysis. You should not need anymore than a large linen closet to store supplies in.



Do any changes have to be made to my home in order to accommodate the dialysis equipment?

A home dialysis technologist will visit your home and determine the best layout of your dialysis equipment and what work will need to be done to complete

installation. The technologist will work together with you in determining the best location for your dialysis equipment. The dialysis technologist will arrange for a plumber and electrician to come in and make any changes that are required in order to accommodate the equipment.

What will the plumber do in my home?



The plumber will connect the R.O. to the closest water supply, usually in the bathroom. He will run pipe or flexible tubing from the cold water inlet directly to where the R.O. will be located. Once the plumber installs the water line then he must install a drain line that will accommodate the drain from the R.O. and the drain from the dialysis machine.

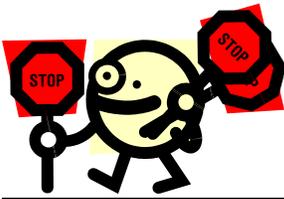
What will the electrician do in my home?



The electrician will install an electrical wire from your main electrical power source to the room in which the dialysis equipment is located. The electrical wire will be dedicated for the dialysis machine only.

What happens if I decide to stop home hemodialysis?

If you decide to discontinue home hemodialysis you will return to the in-centre hemodialysis unit. The dialysis machine, R.O. and carbon tank will be removed from your home, along with the other dialysis supplies.



What will happen if I have problems with the dialysis machine or the dialysis treatment?



You will be trained to troubleshoot problems associated with dialysis. If you are unsure of anything and need to speak with a nurse you may call the Home Hemodialysis' nurses in the unit or via pager. They will be available to you while you are on dialysis.

If you have further questions regarding home dialysis please feel free to contact us at anytime.