

Information on whether Medicare and private insurance will cover  
maintenance dialysis in Canada:

In terms of Medicare - I have been advised that they will not fund maintenance dialysis - a colleague of yours? Chris Mitchell FMS Dialysis in Duluth and I are working on a case very similar -I have spend many hours trying to solve this issue and so far have no solution but here are some of the barriers to making it work - maybe there is a loop hole I just haven't found yet:

- pt cannot get OHIP coverage (ON health coverage) without citizenship
- there are compassionate grounds that can be pursued but still a lengthy process with immigration
- the only way to get coverage in CAN is to become a can citizen
- way to become can citizen is arduous (approx 3 to 4 yr process), or must have a sponsor (still can take several yrs) sponsor can only be children sponsoring parent, spouse, or grandchildren OR if they qualify because they are a skilled worker, self employed or an investor/ if the individual was a prior CAN citizen but gave up status prior to 1977 it is very difficult to resume if after 1977 it is easier to regain.
- resumption of Canadian citizenship for compassionate grounds - a case can be made to the Processing Centre in Sydney Nova Scotia/ supposedly they cannot be contacted by phone and a request for an application can be made to Fax : 902-564-7667
- Heath coverage requires citizenship, proof of residency (3 month wait) - this is problematic for dialysis who cannot wait 3 months without care
- if person is a veteran and ESRF related to injury due to service - they may assist in appeal
- COSTS/ OHIP rate for out of country dialysis is \$210.00 Canadian/ this is what is paid to the renal unit for each dialysis treatment, the physician also bills a minimum of \$131.40 per patient per week on dialysis for hemodialysis management (therefore Medicare would be responsible to pay a minimum of \$761.40 per week for hemo pt (have not calculated PD yet) This does not include hospitalization, acute assessment, ER visits, ambulance services etc... (US unit would need to agree if hospitalization needed that they would take pt back) THIS COULD BE A SIGNIFICANT PROBLEM, Psychosocially, family costs, etc...
- I have been working with the Canadian Consulate office who has been willing to do some leg work for me / contacts as follows  
Detroit Consulate 313-567-2085/313-567-2340, fax 313-567-2125  
Suite 1100-600 Renaissance Centre, Detroit Michigan / I have found a woman by the name of Colleen Omeara with the office in Minneapolis helpful - her number is 612-333-4641
- It is my understanding that Medicare will not fax their policies on coverage/ Chris has requested one in the mail / I hope to learn from her if there are any further loop holes and will share the info if beneficial.

I wish you well / I regret that I have yet to be successful on this venture so any ideas you find along the way would be helpful.