

Home Dialysis: Myth vs. Reality



Adapted from *Uncovering Myths About Home Dialysis* by the ESRD NCC

Myth	Reality
You must buy the dialysis machine to use at home.	Your dialysis clinic will provide the machine if you need one for home use, as well as the supplies.
If you do home dialysis, your home must be rewired.	Any required electrical work, if needed, is simple and can often be done sometime during the training.
You can't do home dialysis unless your plumbing is redone.	It depends. One option uses an adaptor that fits into the faucet. The other option may require some minor plumbing work to be done.
You must get rid of your pets to do dialysis at home.	Lots of people dialyze at home and still have pets. Clean well and ensure your pets stay out of the room where you connect or disconnect.
You'll get an infection on peritoneal dialysis (PD)!	Very low rates of PD infection are possible when close attention is paid to the causes of peritonitis (an infection of your abdomen), along with training provided to you on the procedures used to reduce the risk of infection.
You need a lot of space at home to do PD.	You do need some space for PD, but many people who live in efficiency apartments, trailers, and other small spaces find a way to make PD work for them.
You won't have any experts at home to help with home hemodialysis (HHD).	You will learn to be an expert. Plus, your home dialysis facility serves as 24-hour phone backup. You will always be near help.
You could bleed to death very quickly on HHD.	No one has ever bled to death on HHD. Machine alarms alert you to the detection of just one drop of blood out of place. You will have time to react and fix the problem.
Your house must be perfectly clean at all times to do HHD.	Your home does not have to be perfectly clean to perform HHD at home.
If you do dialysis at home, you won't be able to change dialysis types or get a transplant.	Not at all. You can always switch to another home modality or go back to in-center dialysis. Also, doing home dialysis does not make you less likely to get a transplant.

To file a grievance please contact Network 8 at 877-936-9260, info@nw8.esrd.net, 775 Woodlands Pkwy, Suite 310, Ridgeland, Mississippi 39157, and www.esrdnetwork8.org.

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