



UK Kidney Association

National home adaptation and reimbursement for Adults and Children undertaking dialysis at home

This document outlines the responsibilities of the provider (NHS Trusts/Health Boards) for capital costs of home adaptation and reimbursement of utility costs for home dialysis. This might include remote monitoring, electricity, heating, telephone, water and sewage costs due to haemodialysis or peritoneal dialysis treatments and associated equipment.

The renal unit responsible for dialysis provision within NHS Trusts/Health Boards will carry out a suitability assessment for home dialysis. This will involve members of the renal multi-disciplinary team e.g. renal technologist, home dialysis nurse, visiting the property and discussing the options and logistics e.g. storage with the person wishing to have dialysis at home.

Payment of the national tariff to the patient's usual dialysis provider is expected to meet these costs as per NHS England Haemodialysis to treat established renal failure performed in a patient's home service specification <https://www.england.nhs.uk/commissioning/wp-content/uploads/sites/12/2015/01/a06-serv-spec-haemodialysis-renal-failr-home.pdf>

Changes in fuel costs need to be reviewed quarterly and attention paid to increasing charges and price caps

In relation to dialysis treatment NHS Trusts/Health Boards will be responsible for the following:

Initial environmental assessment

Capital whole life costs

Reimbursing additional utility costs

Ongoing clinical/technical support

Community support

Capital whole life costs

- Covering the total cost of any adaptations required to accommodate the equipment required for dialysis in the person's home e.g. alterations to plumbing and drainage, movement of electrical sockets
- Arranging and installing any adaptations required including storage
- Providing and maintaining the necessary equipment for people wishing to have dialysis at home
- Cover reasonable costs for the reinstatement of any adaptations should home dialysis cease
- Delivery, installation and removal of equipment and consumables as required
- Provision and delivery of consumables for dialysis e.g. dialysers, needles and machine lines

Reimbursing additional utility costs

- Meeting the average additional cost to the individual bill payer (patient) of electricity and water required to deliver the dialysis treatment, irrespective of receipt of any benefits.
- Using the dialysis prescription to calculate energy and water consumption.
- Making payments directly to the patient/bill payer or directly to the utility company



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- Taking into consideration patients' experiencing financial hardship who may require payments in advance

Ongoing clinical/technical support

- Provide quality assurance for home dialysis as per specification
- Provide and maintain all the equipment necessary for dialysis to be carried out at home e.g. haemodialysis machine, reverse osmosis unit, automated peritoneal dialysis machine
- Provide access to unit-based dialysis when needed
- Agree method, frequency and contact details for collection of clinical waste

Community support

- Liaise with local housing authorities or private landlords and any other relevant parties to gain permission and agree the adaptations prior to any work commencing
- Assist with re-housing for the purpose of home dialysis if required
- Offer advice and guidance on entitlements to benefits <https://www.kidneycareuk.org/get-support/cost-living-hub/>
<https://www.kidney.org.uk/help-with-financial-support>

Reimbursements

- Reimbursement is defined as repayment for out-of-pocket expenses. In relation to home dialysis, these are the additional amounts of electricity and water used for the purpose of dialysis and are payable to all patients who dialyse at home.
- Payment is made by the provider NHS Trust/Health Board using an agreed method for reimbursement based on the production of relevant utility bills before and after installation of dialysis equipment and continuing treatment

Prior to any reimbursement an agreement form should be completed (Appendix I) by the patient and authorised by the home dialysis team.

Total reimbursement cost can be divided as payable and reimbursed on regular scheduled intervals so as not to disadvantage the bill payer/patient if using alternatives e.g. pre-payment meter

Signpost patients to additional assistance they could apply for e.g. PIP/other financial benefits/support for heating

Calculating utility reimbursements

Electricity

When calculating electricity consumption, consider the following:

- Dialysis prescription
- Preparation & disinfection time of both HD machine & Reverse Osmosis Unit
- Average electricity consumption of equipment
- Local electricity tariff (considering daytime and evening rates)

Water and sewage

For those who have a fixed annual water cost based on their property home dialysis will **not** have an impact on cost.

For those with a water meter home dialysis will have an impact on consumption and cost and additional costs will be reimbursed. Points to consider for those with a water meter would include:

- Receipt of qualifying benefits e.g. Personal Independence Payments
- Membership of the Water Sure Scheme (or advice on how to join)

Assistance with telephone costs.

NHS Trust/Health Boards will cover the cost of installation of a land line for the purpose of home dialysis if a mobile phone is unsuitable e.g. poor signal

Remote monitoring

Any costs incurred for the installation of specialist remote monitoring equipment will be covered by the NHS Trust/Health Board.

Council Tax reduction

Home dialysis patients may be eligible for a reduction in Council Tax for having medical equipment at home. Applications should be made by the person having home dialysis directly to their local council. The NHS Trust/Health Board may be required to write a letter of support

<https://www.gov.uk/apply-council-tax-reduction>

Under-occupancy charges

Home dialysis patients in receipt of housing benefits and renting from their local council may be eligible to apply for exemption from 'bedroom tax'.

<https://contact.org.uk/help-for-families/information-advice-services/benefits-financial-help/benefits-and-tax-credits/bedroom-tax/>

Insurance

The patient must inform their household insurer that they have medical equipment in their home. This does not normally incur an additional cost

However, should an increase in premium be required, the difference will be reimbursed on production of written evidence from the insurance company.

Appendices:

- Patient agreement
- Calculator

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