

Could Home Dialysis Group Training Work for Your Program?

This handout is intended to assist home dialysis training programs with implementing a group training program for home hemodialysis (HHD) and/or peritoneal dialysis (PD).

Benefits of Group Training

- Helps more patients get trained and begin home therapy.
- Decreases the time patients must wait for training.
- Assists during staffing shortages by having one nurse train multiple patients at a time.
- Supports patient-to-patient learning during group training, as others may ask questions they didn't think of or were too nervous to ask.
- Establishes patient and caregiver connections who meet during group training and remain in contact after they go home, providing support for each other.

Setting It Up

HHD Group Training	PD Group Training
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If the facility has an in-center dialysis program: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Designate in-center chairs for group training on the treatment floor. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Needs approval by State Survey Agency. ○ Requires designated staff. ○ Uses staggered start times for patients. ○ Allows in-center patients the opportunity to witness training and ask questions. • If the facility is a home-only program: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Reconfigure space to allow for group training in one big room instead of a single training room. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have patients visit the home program one week prior to starting training for a one-to-one visit to complete labs and paperwork. • Designate specific home training staff. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Can use a licensed practical nurse (LPN) or patient care technician (PCT) for assistance. • Use conference rooms for group education when patients are not initiating or ending treatment. • Provide privacy in training rooms for exchanges. • Give patients homework at the end of each day to reinforce education.

Best Practices

- Create a “home first” culture for the home program.
 - Ensure all staff believe all interested patients should have the chance to experience home dialysis.
 - Encourage nephrologist support of home modalities.
 - Build relationships with area hospitals to promote “home first” and receive early referrals.
 - Encourage in-center facility staff to train patients to self-cannulate.
 - Allow for sufficient staff to train patients who urgently start home dialysis.
 - Cross train direct care staff in both home modalities (HHD and PD).
- Designate nurses to conduct home dialysis training who are separate from nurses designated to case management patients already on home dialysis (i.e., case management nurses).
 - Allows training nurses to follow patients for 90-days and then transition them to case management nurses.
 - Promotes fewer interruptions during training and improved support for established patients.
 - Decreases nurse burn out because all nurses have their designated roles.