



If you are feeling unsure about home dialysis, here are some common questions and answers to help you understand dialysis treatments at home!



I don't know anything about home dialysis. Is it hard to do?

That's ok! Once you decide to do home dialysis, you and your care partner will take classes at your dialysis center. A home dialysis nurse will also visit your home to help you prepare. Once you start home dialysis, you can have your care partner there to help you or if you want you can do it yourself. You can also ask your care team any questions, at any time.



Is home dialysis safe?

Yes, home dialysis is safe! The main thing to watch out for is infections. Most of these happen at your dialysis access site. However, this is true for in-center dialysis as well. Your access site is:

- Where you connect to the hemodialysis machine
- The catheter in your belly, if you do peritoneal dialysis

During your classes to learn to do home dialysis safely to prevent infections.



I'm scared I will do something wrong. What if I need help during a treatment?

If you need help during a treatment you will have your care partner with you. You can also call your care team or dialysis center for help anytime of the day.

Call 911 if it is an emergency and you or your care partner need help right away.



How will I pay for home dialysis?

If you have kidney failure, you may qualify for Medicare. Medicare will pay for 80% of your home dialysis treatments. The rest of the costs may be covered by:

- Private insurance
- Some managed care organizations
- Medicaid
- Veterans Administration (VA)
- Indian Health Services (IHS)

Your dialysis center social worker can help you learn more about coverage, costs, and how to pay for them.



My home is small. Will I need a lot of space for home dialysis?

If you have a dialysis machine for hemodialysis or CCPD you will need to make space for it.

For any type of treatment, you will need a closet-sized space to store supplies. To save space you can:

- Stack supplies that are in sturdy boxes
- Remove supplies from boxes to store in baskets, drawers, or shelves (do not remove supplies from any sterile, sealed packaging)

Your home dialysis nurse will make a home visit to advise you how to set up your treatment space.



I have pets. Can I do home dialysis with pets?

Yes, you can! But you will need to keep your treatment and storage spaces pet-free and clean. For example, set up your treatment space and supplies in a room where you can close the door to keep pets out.



Can I travel on home dialysis?

Yes, you can! Home dialysis is more flexible than in-center dialysis because you can create your own schedule.

You will just need to make a plan when you travel so you can:

- Bring everything you need, including your dialysis machine.
- Arrange for dialysis supplies to be delivered to your destination, if you travel for a longer time
- Tell your care team about your travel plans so they can help you travel safely



What if my power goes out?

Your home dialysis nurse will go over emergency plans in case you lose power. This may mean you go to your dialysis center for treatment.

Learn more about home dialysis at
[kidney.org/home-dialysis](https://www.kidney.org/home-dialysis)



For more information, contact the National Kidney Foundation

Toll-free help line: **855.NKF.CARES** or email: nkfcare@kidney.org