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**Beginning a Successful Home Hemodialysis Program**

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Beginning a home hemodialysis, (HHD) program can be an overwhelming task. It can be made easier by focusing on the “5Ws: Who, What, When, Where, and Why”.

The healthcare professional charged with beginning an HHD program can start with the logistical aspects of “Where” and “What”. Where involves choosing a location for training where there is enough space for the patient, the caregiver(s), equipment and supplies. Consider any special needs for water, electricity, cable and phone lines. “What” involves types of equipment. It is usually a good idea to consider more than one type of HHD machine to accommodate a wider variety of patients. When choosing what type of equipment, consider the manufacturer’s training and support for both staff and patients. Ask yourself “Will this meet our needs in the patient’s home environment, as well as the training location?”

When considering the “Who” in your Home Hemodialysis program consider the patient, caregiver, and staff. Is this treatment modality a good fit? Do they have a good understanding of what is involved? Are they able to commit to training and treatment time 3-6 days per week?

Moving on to “When”, how are training sessions and patient treatments scheduled? What will happen if staff/ patient/ caregiver take a vacation?

Finally, consider “Why” when planning a Home Hemodialysis program. Giving control back to the patient encourages independence and ownership for their care and often leads to a better quality of life. Understand that the patient’s situation may change and always consider making changes to help keep the patient at home and independent.

By carefully considering the “Five Ws” while planning your program, you can achieve a successful home hemodialysis program.

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