

2020 ANNA NATIONAL SYMPOSIUM

Use of Multidisciplinary Approach to Increase and Maintain the Number of Patients Choosing a Home Therapy Modality

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In December 2016, 63.1% of all prevalent ESRD patients received hemodialysis (HD), 7.0% peritoneal dialysis (PD), and 29.6% had a functioning kidney transplant as their renal replacement therapy (RRT). 98% of the HD patients were in-center and 2% were at home (HHD). In July 2019 President Trump signed an executive order to decrease the number of patients utilizing in-center hemodialysis, increase the number of patients utilizing home modalities, and increase the number of kidneys available for transplantation.

A small hospital based dialysis unit instituted a multidisciplinary approach to increasing and maintain the percentage of patients utilizing PD or HHD as their RRT therapy. The approach has increased the percentage of home patients from 8.3% in January, 2014 to 43.3% in April, 2016. Since April, 2016 the percentage of home patients has remained stable between 40 to 54% of the unit's patient population.

The multidisciplinary approach involved early referral to a dialysis Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) for pre dialysis education, a tour of the dialysis facility, and discussion with a home therapy registered nurse. Additional follow up education was provided by the LCSW at the patient's request. Training for PD was completed by a home therapy RN over 3 days. Additional days were added to meet the patient or family needs. On the 3rd day the home therapy nurse completed a home visit and supplied additional training within the home environment. The same nurses that train the patients are available 24/7 by phone for any questions or follow up, thus establishing a working professional relationship with the patient. The motto is that the patient must prove that he/she cannot do home dialysis.

This approach could be duplicated in any dialysis setting and may also lead to an increase in the percentage of home patients within that setting's catchment area.

Abstract selected for presentation at 2020 ANNA National Symposium