

Beginning a Successful Home Hemodialysis Program

PURPOSE:

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

METHODS:

The healthcare professional charged with beginning a home hemodialysis program can start with the logistical aspects of **"Where"** and **"What"**. This includes choosing a location for training where there is enough space for the patient, the caregiver(s), equipment and supplies. Choosing what type of equipment will help dictate the location of where support items such as water, electricity, cable and phone lines will need to be located. 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. By giving control back to our patients through independence will encourage compliance and can improve their quality of life.

CONCLUSION:

In conclusion, by carefully considering the **"Five Ws"** while planning your program, you can achieve a successful home hemodialysis program.