



Decreasing Peritonitis for Patients Receiving Peritoneal Dialysis in the Nursing Home

This resource offers tips to help reduce peritonitis if your facility or organization provides peritoneal dialysis (PD) to patients residing in a nursing home.

Communication

- Establish regular times to communicate.
- Hold a comprehensive Interdisciplinary Team (IDT) meeting weekly or monthly between the home program and the nursing home to discuss patients.
- Establish a 24-hour, on-call home dialysis nurse and post the number at nurses' stations, in the nursing home dialysis room, and on cyclers, so nursing home staff can call with questions or concerns.
- Identify a key leader at the dialysis program to "own" the nursing home dialysis process and partner with the nursing home staff to ensure consistency and open communication.
- Invite the nursing home staff to the dialysis program Quality Assessment and Performance Improvement (QAPI) meetings and send minutes after the meeting.

Education

- Provide an in-service about PD to the nursing home staff that includes how PD works and care of the PD catheter.
- Provide educational handouts and resources from the ESRD Network to the nursing home.
- Teach the nursing home the signs and symptom of peritonitis and to report any changes to the home nurse immediately.
- Emphasize that nursing home staff who have not been trained on PD should not touch the machine or the patient's catheter.

Reducing Blood Transfusions

- Monitor lab values that could indicate blood loss.
- Encourage the home dialysis program dietitian to partner with the nursing home dietitian monthly or more often, if needed, to discuss dietary guidance (e.g., increasing iron in the diet).
- Conduct a root cause analysis if the patient is hospitalized, has an infection, or has anemia to determine the reason for the blood transfusion and discuss at quality meetings.

Resource

- [Preventing Peritonitis, Peritonitis: Symptoms, Treatment, Prevention](#)