






Getting Creative to Break Down Barriers to Dialysis Care in Nursing Homes

Whether short-term or long-term, there may be a time in a patient’s life when nursing home (NH) care is needed. Some NHs can provide hemodialysis and/or peritoneal dialysis on-site. While there are benefits to on-site dialysis services, there also can be barriers to achieving quality outcomes. Use this resource to break down some of the commonly reported barriers and explore possible solutions.

Barrier 	Dive Deeper 	Brainstorm and Expand Solutions 
Lack of communication between dialysis facilities and NH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can you make personal connections between the facility and NH staff? (e.g., one-pager overview of the facility staff, hours, and direct phone numbers, on-site visits) • Can you schedule a regular time/day to meet with the NH staff? Daily, weekly, bi-weekly? • Is there a communication tool that provides the NH with information about the dialysis treatment? • Can you obtain access to the NH electronic health records? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement a SBAR Tool. • Invite the NH staff to the monthly quality meeting. • If unable to meet in-person, set up conference calls via Zoom or other platforms.
Lack of knowledge by NH staff about dialysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can you assign a person to conduct (or record) training for the NH staff? • Can you develop a binder that contains educational material about dialysis to leave at the NH? • Can the NH clarify its gaps in education for the dialysis facility to address? (e.g., collect and answer frequently asked questions). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resources for the binder: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Choosing a Treatment for Kidney Failure – Peritoneal Dialysis What You Need to Know – ESRD NCC Home Dialysis Universal Staff Education – Understanding Peritoneal Dialysis as an Option
High infection rates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have you had all stakeholders perform hand hygiene audits and follow-up education? (e.g. dialysis facility, transportation, patient, NH staff) • Does the NH staff understand the signs and symptoms of a different types of infection (e.g., access, peritonitis)? How might you make the education stick? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Useful resources: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Preventing Peritonitis – Dialysis Audit Tool – CDC Hand Hygiene Audit Tool – Sample Infection Prevention and Control QI Plans



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Resources' web addresses:

Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) SBAR Tool: <https://www.ahrq.gov/teamstepps-program/curriculum/communication/tools/sbar.html>

National Kidney Foundation (NKF) Choosing a Treatment for Kidney Failure: https://www.kidney.org/sites/default/files/choosing_a_treatment.pdf

NKF Peritoneal Dialysis What You Need to Know: https://www.kidney.org/sites/default/files/choosing_a_treatment.pdf

ESRD NCC Home Dialysis Universal Staff Education: <https://esrdncc.org/en/professionals/universal-staff-education-home-dialysis>

ESRD NCC Understanding Peritoneal Dialysis as an Option: <https://esrdncc.org/contentassets/2b77e6e938bd44ae9e6e00181abca601/peritonealdialysis-option2-508.pdf>

ESRD NCC Preventing Peritonitis: <https://www.esrdncc.org/contentassets/5a2d5190ed624f2b9350c5102794265e/npfelanlegacyperitonitis508.pdf>

ESRD NCC Dialysis Audit Tool: Hand Hygiene with Hand Sanitizer: <https://esrdncc.org/globalassets/professionals/handsanitizeraudittool508.pdf>

CDC Hand Hygiene Audit Tool: <https://www.cdc.gov/dialysis/PDFs/collaborative/Hemodialysis-Hand-Hygiene-Observations.pdf>

ESRD NCC Sample Infection Prevention and Control QI Plan: <https://esrdncc.org/globalassets/professionals/sampleinfectprevqiplansv3508.pdf>