Financial support for home dialysis patients in the Australian Capital Territory

This fact sheet provides information about financial concessions and subsidies available to patients in Australian Capital Territory (ACT) who manage their dialysis treatment at home. However, financial support differs between each State or Territory. This resource has been developed by the HOME Network, a group of healthcare professionals who are working together to facilitate a positive change towards increased use of home dialysis.

Home haemodialysis patients face increased utility costs that result from elevated water usage and electricity requirements necessary to run their dialysis equipment. As this is a recognised medical requirement, the ACT Government provides a subsidy through electricity retailers to assist home dialysis patients with the running costs of their dialysis equipment. Many water suppliers in the ACT also offer a concession water usage costs for home dialysis patients. Some States and Territories offer ongoing financial assistance and/or a single set-up payment for home dialysis patients. For more information about what is available in the ACT, contact the Department of Health.

Rebates for concession card holders

Concession card holders may be eligible to receive ACT Government funded rebates on their utility costs. The maximum rebate for energy costs is $426.46 per year and concession card holders may also be eligible to receive a rebate of up to 68% on their water and sewerage costs. For more information about the scheme and eligible concession cards, visit [www.assistance.act.gov.au](http://www.assistance.act.gov.au)

Haemodialysis Water rebate

As part of the ACT Government Assistance Scheme, eligible home haemodialysis patients can receive a rebate of up to $3.29 per day on their water costs ($1,200 per year). For more information about the rebate, visit [www.assistance.act.gov.au/adult/utilities/home_haemodialysis_rebate](http://www.assistance.act.gov.au/adult/utilities/home_haemodialysis_rebate)

Life support rebate

The ACT Government subsidises the cost of increased electricity requirements for home dialysis patients with a credit of $121.87 per year, which is deducted from personal electricity bills by energy retailers. For more information about the electricity rebate and how to apply, visit [www.assistance.act.gov.au/person_with_health-issues/health_and_dental/life_support_rebate](http://www.assistance.act.gov.au/person_with_health-issues/health_and_dental/life_support_rebate)

Household assistance – Essential medical equipment

The introduction of a carbon price in 2012 has impacted on the price of electricity. To offset the electricity price impacts on home dialysis equipment, the Federal Government provides an Essential Medical Equipment Payment of $152 annually to Commonwealth Concession Card holders. Once claimed, the Essential Medical Equipment Payment will be paid annually until the person’s circumstances change. For more information about this payment, visit [http://www.cleanenergyfuture.gov.au/wpcontent/uploads/2012/04/Factsheet-5-EssentialMedicalEquipment-20120416.pdf](http://www.cleanenergyfuture.gov.au/wpcontent/uploads/2012/04/Factsheet-5-EssentialMedicalEquipment-20120416.pdf)
What is The HOME Network?
Through research, education and advocacy, The HOME Network aims to enable healthcare professionals with knowledge and resources to empower more people with chronic kidney disease (CKD) to embrace the freedom of home dialysis. This national initiative brings together a solution-focused group of home dialysis healthcare professionals from across Australia. The group draws upon all levels of evidence to provide insights and practical options for colleagues throughout Australia to facilitate a positive change towards increased use of home dialysis. For more information about The HOME Network and to explore resources available to healthcare professionals and patients, please go to our website, www.homenetwork.net.au.

Contact information for ACT

The Home Network
Email: info@homenetwork.net.au
Web: www.homenetwork.net.au

Kidney Health Australia
Kidney Health Information Service
Ph: 1800 4 KIDNEY (1800 454 3639)
Web: www.kidney.org.au

ACT Department of Health
Canberra Connect Contact Centre
Ph: 132 281
Web: www.assistance.act.gov.au

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Please note that the information provided in this fact sheet is correct as of January 2017 and is subject to change without notice. This fact sheet is intended as general information only and is not complete or definitive. The HOME Network is not liable, and does not take any responsibility whatsoever for reliance on such information.