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Shared care strategies in in-centre — a possible pathway to home

Literature and experience suggest that once someone is established at an in-centre unit then they are unlikely to choose home further down the track. A dialysis unit in the UK however have challenged this with a new shared-care model in their unit. They used information from audits and collaboration with patients to develop a training package and a training aid. The aim of shared-care was that the patient only did what they were able to and the nurses bridged any gaps.

35 patients participated in the pilot and to date seven have transferred to HDD. The advantage for another 18 who became independent, but chose to remain in the unit was flexibility to vary their own dialysis regime, within certain parameters. Another gain was reduced training wait-time for the main HDD unit because the patients only required very short train-times prior to their transfer to home.

Success factors were considered to be enthusiastic staff who were specially trained, a pseudo primary nurse (named nurse), a patient workbook with pictures, ability of the patients to choose which of six shared care areas they wished to participate in and a special six-bed area put aside for shared care.

KHA Kids camp—APD on holiday!

From 11-14th April 80 kids, 16 nurses, many volunteers and some KHA staff participated in the KHA, four day kids camp. 12 kids had APD on site, and HD was provided at two QLD sites. Highlights were time-zone (movie world was rained off), camp idol competition, the presence of many “Hollywood stars”, and the amazing smiles on the faces of the kids.



Sleep for adults was a little hard to come by, but that did not dampen the enthusiasm. Look out for some of the kids starring in a short DVD about life on dialysis, soon to be released.

A huge thanks to everyone who made this possible. You are all very special people.



HOME Network

HOME Network next meeting April 29th—Melbourne

The HOME Network

Educate, Enable, Empower

Email
homedialysis@kidney.org.au

Through education and advocacy the HOME network aims to enable patients and healthcare professionals to use their knowledge and the practical resources developed by the group to empower more patients to embrace the freedom of home therapies.

The HOME Network has been able to offer two positions to join this group. We were a little overwhelmed with responses but to date are pleased to welcome a nurse from Tasmania, Bridget Brown and a social worker from Victoria, Kelsay Smith. Gradual rotation for new members will occur over the next 2—3 years.

At the April meeting the KHA government liaison officer will be providing some insights into how to advocate effectively for change, an avenue the financial task-force is keen to pursue. The nurse education taskforce plan to endorse their myths busting fact sheet; and the early education book will share the new HOME Dialysis booklet (a collaboration with KHA and the Renal Resource Centre). The updated financial fact sheets should also be endorsed ready for release onto the KHA website. Planning is also underway for a number of posters and presentations involving HOME Network members at the June RSA.

Home Dialysis—Who cares for the carer?

The NHS have released a very valuable document 'Home Dialysis—Who cares for the carer?' The strength of this document is that it is based on ten interviews of home dialysis carers. Their experiences were framed into a number of topics, and were also used to develop nine key recommendations. The document also contains many direct quotes from the interviews. The recommendations include:

- Partnership and involvement with carers at the decision making stage during the education process for choosing home dialysis
- Recognition of carers for what they do
- Partnership with carers to determine the division of roles and best way to meet training needs
- Provision of support for carer's emotional needs
- Offering respite for carers
- The opportunity for carers to meet other carers



Carers are an important part of care for many using home dialysis. Generally the focus of many check-ups and conversations has been on the individual who is on the dialysis. Maybe there should be an extra question each check up for the carer: How are you coping?, and 'Is there anything we can do to support you?' could be a good starting point.

Many calls to KHA are from carers who need extra support. If you have any successful programmes for supporting carers please email; homedialysis@kidney.org.au

Reference: www.kidneycare.nhs.uk www.carersaustralia.com.au

Editors Word!

Welcome to edition 16 of Home Updates. Membership is now about 280.

I am just recovering from kids camp, meeting and laughing with our youngest home dialysis patients, and their siblings is an inspiring experience .

As always, email me with any comments or stories to debbie.fortnum@kidney.org.au

