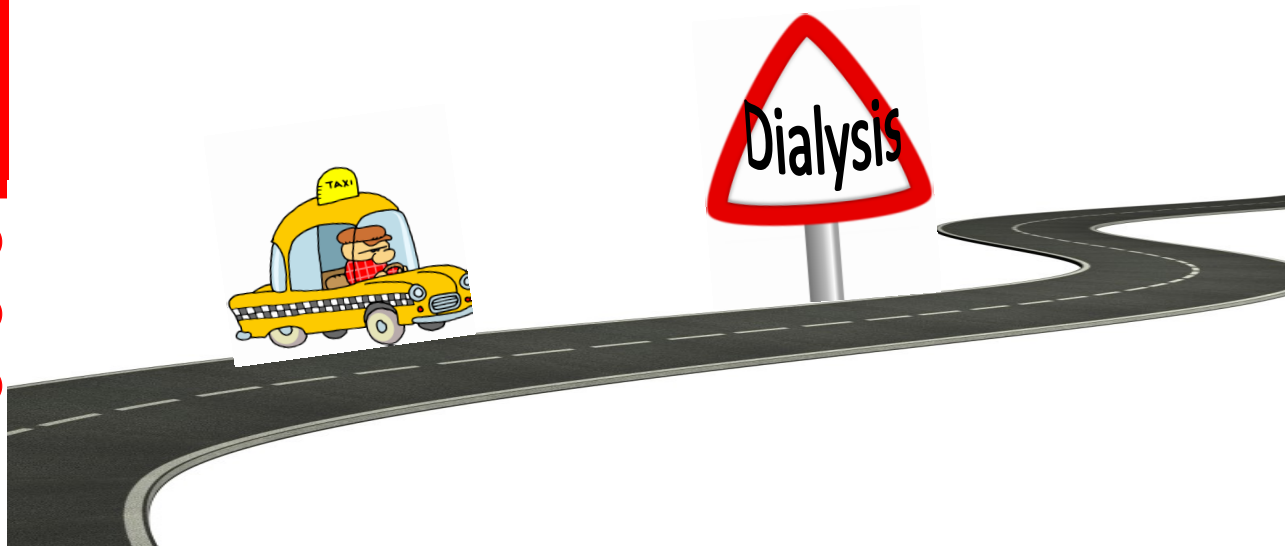


Transport Options for Dialysis Northern Territory



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Welcome

This package has been developed to provide information about how you can travel to your regular dialysis appointments, or home dialysis training and clinics.

Going to dialysis treatments three times a week requires commitment, and for many people this may mean using different transport throughout the week. Remember if travel is overwhelming Home Dialysis could be a better option for you.

Travel options start with driving yourself to dialysis which for many may require the help of friends or family members. Other options are using taxis, community transport, public transport, and using country travel assistance programmes. For those who cannot travel by routine transport ambulance may be an option.

Every dialysis unit will be able to let you know if they have their own special transport such as their own dialysis bus or cars, but unfortunately this is usually restricted to those who have no other options.

Driving to Dialysis

When driving the main consideration is parking which is needed for up to 6 hours. Many dialysis units offer free parking, however, some may not, so check with your unit for more information regarding where to park and the costs involved.

In the early stages of treatment it is recommended that you do not drive yourself home. As you get used to dialysis you may begin to drive yourself to and from treatment.



Public Transport

The Department of Transport provide all the information needed for bus timetables. The journey planner can also be found on the Department of Transport website homepage
<http://www.transport.nt.gov.au/public/journey-planner>

Department of Transport Information Line –
 (08) 8924 7666

Taxi

Many patients use taxis to get to and from dialysis. To assist in taxi expenses many patients are eligible for the taxi voucher rebate scheme.

- Vouchers are available providing a 50% discount off fares
- Maximum value is \$25 per trip
- Wheelchair patients receive a 75% discount up to \$35 per trip.
- Criteria for eligibility include disability, visual impairments, an inability to use public transport and a permanent residency in WA.

To apply you must complete a Taxi Users' Subsidy Scheme Application form, part of which must be completed by your doctor. Two passport photos are also required; one signed by your doctor. Completed forms must be sent to the Commercial Passenger Vehicles Branch

Application forms are available on the department of transport website
<http://transport.nt.gov.au/taxi/taxi-subsidy-scheme>

For more information email rtcpv@nt.gov.au or call 08 8924 7043

Ambulance (non-urgent)

Ambulances are usually restricted to those who are severely restricted with mobility, have dementia or reside in nursing homes. If you are applying on their behalf you need to consult with the doctor to determine if they are eligible and to get written medical approval. To use free ambulance cover for non-urgent use you must be over 65 and on an aged care pension.

The limit on private health insurance ambulance use is \$3000 per year. Ambulance fund membership averages up to \$100 per annum. Check carefully re eligibility to avoid unexpected bills.

Hospital Transport

For those people who do not wish to use any of the aforementioned modes of transport, hospitals and renal units also provide transport for dialysis patients.

The majority of hospitals and renal units provide free transport to and from dialysis and appointments at renal units. There is no eligibility criteria to be provided this service as long as the patient is on dialysis.

In most circumstances this service is also available to the carers of the patients. Some exceptional circumstances may occur when the hospital may not provide transport e.g.

- choosing to live very far away from the unit, and these will be assessed on a case by case basis.

- If you have any more questions regarding your transport to and from dialysis, speak to your social worker or health professional for more information.

- Contact numbers and addresses for each unit can be found on the next page or on the KHA website:

<http://www.kidney.org.au/ForPatients/DUGDialysisUnitGuide/tabid/607/Default.aspx>

Patient Assisted Travel Scheme (PATS)

The Patient Assistance Travel Scheme assists Northern Territory residents to access a range of essential specialist medical / surgical services where services are not available locally, from within the Northern Territory or from a visiting service.

PATS provides assistance with travel, and if applicable, accommodation costs to residents of the Northern Territory who are required to travel more than 200kms to the nearest specialist medical treatment.

There are six easy steps to apply for PATS which begin with your doctor completing and signing an application form. Applications must be submitted prior to travel. Receipts of expenses incurred throughout travel must be kept.

It is the responsibility of your doctor to complete an application on your behalf. It is important to note that the lodgement of an application form does not in itself constitute approval.

More information can also be found on the KHA home dialysis website: www.kha.org.au/patient-services-support-travel-assist

Your Dialysis Unit

- If you do not find a transport solution
- ask the nurses at your dialysis clinic if
- there are any other options provided by your clinic.

Sometimes this is just occasional for when the routine transport arrangements are not available.



Dialysis Units– Northern Territory

Dialysis Unit	Phone	Address
Alice Springs Renal Unit	08 8951 6750	69 Flynn Dr, Alice Springs
Tiwi Dialysis Centre	08 8978 3659	Nguiu, Bathurst Island
Katherine Renal Unit	08 8973 9360	Gorges Rd, Katherine
The Purple House Dialysis Unit	08 8953 6444	69 Flynn Dr, Alice Springs
Nightcliff Renal Unit	08 8948 9000	Dick Ward Dr, Nightcliff
Palmerston Dialysis Unit	08 8999 3328	Palmerston Health Precinct, Palmerston
Tennant Creek Renal Dialysis	08 8962 4370	Schmidt St, Tennant Creek
Ward 7A	08 8922 8935	Rocklands Dr, Tiwi
Ntaria/Tanami Dialysis Unit	08 8953 6444	Raberaba Circuit St, Ntaria
Alice Springs Fresenius Renal Unit	08 8955 4900	Gap Rd, Alice Springs

