



The
HOME
Network™
Educate, Enable, Empower

Established 2009



Financial support for home dialysis patients in Western Australia

This fact sheet provides information about financial concessions available to patients who receive their dialysis treatment at home. This resource has been developed on behalf of The HOME Network, a group of healthcare professionals who are working in partnership with Kidney Health Australia to address the low uptake of home dialysis in Australia.

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, hospitals in Western Australia and the Western Australian Government provide subsidies to assist home dialysis patients with the running costs of their dialysis equipment. 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 Western Australia, contact the Department of Health.

Rebates for concession card holders

The Western Australian Government provides additional concessions on some utility costs for holders of various concession cards. Eligible card holders can receive a rebate of up to \$200 per year. For information about the energy rebate, contact your energy supplier. Concession card holders may also be eligible to receive a rebate of up to 50% of their annual water services charges. For more information, see

www.watercorporation.com.au/A/accounts_rates_concessions.cfm.

Hospital payment

Home haemodialysis patients receive a payment of between \$624 - \$780 to assist with increased utility charges. This payment is administered monthly by hospitals in Western Australia. For more information, contact your home haemodialysis training unit.

Life support equipment electricity subsidy

The Western Australian Government subsidises the cost of increased electricity requirements for home peritoneal dialysis patients with an annual rebate of \$73 per year. To be eligible, patients must hold a Pensioner Concession Card, Health Care Card or Health Care Interim Voucher. For more information about the electricity rebate and how to apply, visit

www.finance.wa.gov.au/cms/content.aspx?id=1280

Household Assistance - Essential medical equipment

The introduction of a carbon price in 2012 is expected to impact 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 \$140 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.humanservices.gov.au/customer/services/centrelink/essential-medical-equipment-payment>

The HOME Network

The HOME Network is a national initiative to engage healthcare professionals in the field of home dialysis, empowering these individuals to develop solutions to overcome the barriers that currently inhibit the uptake of home therapies in Australia.

Today, The HOME Network comprises a number of task forces, including the *Financial support and advocacy task force*. This team of healthcare professionals aims to address the financial burden experienced by patients who choose to undergo their dialysis treatment at home. This includes understanding financial entitlements for home dialysis patients in each state and territory across Australia, and making this information available to patients, their carers and other healthcare professionals.

The financial assistance available for home dialysis patients differs for each state and territory in Australia. The HOME Network and Kidney Health Australia are looking at ways to address the inequities in the financial support that is available. If you would like further information or to become involved, please see the contact information below.

Contact information for Western Australia

Kidney Health Australia

Kidney Health Information Service

1800 4 KIDNEY (1800 454 3639)

www.kidney.org.au

www.homedialysis.org.au

Email: homedialysis@kidney.org.au

The HOME Network

info@themenetwork.com.au

Western Australia Government

Office of State Revenue

(08) 9262 1373

lifesupport@dtf.wa.gov.au

www.finance.wa.gov.au

Department of Health

(08) 9222 4222

www.health.wa.gov.au

Horizon Power

www.horizonpower.com.au

1800 267 926

Synergy

www.synergy.net.au

131 353

Water Corporation

www.watercorporation.com.au

131 385

Please note that the information provided in this fact sheet is correct as of **February 2013** and is subject to change without notice. This fact sheet is intended as general information only and is not complete or definitive. Kidney Health Australia and the Home Network is not liable, and does not take any responsibility whatsoever for the reliance on such information.

The HOME Network™, for further information contact - info@themenetwork.com.au