Financial support for home dialysis patients in Victoria

This fact sheet provides information about financial concessions and subsidies available to patients in Victoria (VIC) 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 VIC Government provides a subsidy through electricity retailers to assist home dialysis patients with the running costs of their dialysis equipment. Many water suppliers in VIC 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 VIC, contact the Department of Health.

### Home dialysis patient payment


### Water concession

The Victorian Government provides a special dispensation for patients undergoing haemodialysis at home. Patients holding a Pensioner Concession Card, Centrelink Health Care Card or DVA Gold Card are eligible to receive a rebate on their water bill equal to the cost of 168 kilolitres of water per year. Some water suppliers offer a further discount on remaining water charges. Contact your water supplier for more information.

### Energy rebate

The Victorian Government subsidises the cost of increased electricity requirements for eligible home dialysis patients. The discount is equal to the cost of 1,880 kilowatts per year, which is deducted from personal electricity bills by energy retailers. To be eligible for this discount, home dialysis patients must hold a Pensioner Concession Card, Centrelink Health Care Card or DVA Gold Card. For more information about the electricity rebate and how to apply, visit [http://www.dhs.vic.gov.au/concessions/entitlements/energy/life-support-machine](http://www.dhs.vic.gov.au/concessions/entitlements/energy/life-support-machine).

### Rebates for concession card holders

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.


Contact information for VIC

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

VIC Government
Concessions Information Line – 1800 658 521
concessions@dhs.vic.gov.au

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.