Financial support for home dialysis patients in Western Australia

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

Energy rebate
The Western Australian Government subsidises the cost of increased electricity requirements for home peritoneal dialysis patients with an annual rebate of $85 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 http://www.finance.wa.gov.au/cms/content.aspx?id=1280.

Hospital payment
Home haemodialysis patients receive a payment of $624-780 per year 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.

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.

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 WA

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

Western Australian Government
Office of State Revenue – (08) 9262 1373
lifesupport@dtf.wa.gov.au
www.finance.wa.gov.au

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<tr>
<th>Utility supplier</th>
<th>Website</th>
<th>Contact phone number</th>
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<td>Horizon Power</td>
<td><a href="http://www.horizonpower.com.au">www.horizonpower.com.au</a></td>
<td>1800 267 926</td>
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<tr>
<td>Synergy</td>
<td><a href="http://www.synergy.net.au">www.synergy.net.au</a></td>
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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.