

Big Red Kidney Bus Admission Criteria



Take a holiday and make new memories while keeping your life-saving haemodialysis treatment on track.

Making a booking on the Bus secures you a seat at a location. Final confirmation and approval will be provided by our Clinical Partners: Monash Health, Royal North Shore Hospital and Gold Coast Hospital.

Before you make a booking, please read the required admission criteria listed below.

- The Bus is available for Australia and New Zealand citizens over 16 years of age and who have been established on haemodialysis for 3 months without any significant complications.
- Your fistula or graft should be functioning, problem free for 5 weeks post any corrective procedure. There must be no infection at the vascular access site.
- As there is only one nurse you will need to be able to hold your fistula/graft needle insertion sites at the end of your treatment or have someone present to assist you.
- Unfortunately, we are unable to accept patients who have a Permacath or similar temporary access for New South Wales locations. Patients with a Permacath entry are accepted at Victorian and Gold Coast locations only under the following conditions
 - There can only be one patient with a Permacath per shift, and they must have a well-functioning and Patent CVAD (Central Venous Access Device / Permacath).
 - CVAD must be Heparin locked only; a Monash Health or Gold Coast Hospital CVAD assessment must be returned for review before patient is accepted for holiday dialysis.
 - Patients must present to the BRKB with Tego or similar connectors insitu and where possible be able to self-manage their own CVAD dressings with their own dressing supplies.

- You need to arrange your own transport to and from dialysis.
- Wheelchair access to the Bus is available using a hoist. You need to be ambulant or be able to transfer independently from your wheelchair to the dialysis chair. You may have assistance from a carer or family member. Please note assistance from nursing staff to help you transfer to the chair will be limited as there will only be one nurse on the Bus.
- You must be medically and psychologically stable and be able to tolerate the prescribed dialysis treatment.
- Should you require your own anticoagulant therapy (eg. Heparin, Clexane and Fragmin), erythropoietin (eg. Neorecormon, Aranesp or Micera), or any other medication for the duration of your stay, you will need to bring these to your dialysis sessions
- You must not require administration of any IV medications including antibiotics during your dialysis on the Bus (apart from anticoagulants and EPO).
- You must not have any active drains or wounds that will require nursing intervention or dressing changes.
- Your unit is required to provide your most recent serology including Hep B, Hep C (taken within 1 Year for BRKB-VIC and 6 months for BRKB-NSW), Biochemistry and Haematology (taken within 1 month).
- Your unit is required to provide Current Multi-Resistant Organism Status (taken within 3months) VRE and MRSA swabs.

We recommend that you take holiday/travel insurance to cover your travel expenses in the event your dialysis cannot be accommodated.

Should you have any questions about the admission criteria, please call our Kidney Helpline on 1800 454 363 (option 3) or email bigred.kidneybus@kidney.org.au