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KIDNEY HEALTH AUSTRALIA®

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 40.14 cents per day ($146.51 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 $13 per week ($676 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.

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 $71 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 will provide an Essential Medical Equipment Payment of $140 annually to Commonwealth Concession Card holders. For more information about this payment, visit www.cleanenergyfuture.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2011/ 07/Fact-sheet-5-Household-assistance-Essential-medical-equipment.pdf.

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

The HOME Network
info@thehomenetwork.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 September 2011** 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 is not liable, and does not take any responsibility whatsoever for the reliance on such information. If further subsidies are determined or changed please notify Kidney Health Australia and all efforts will be made to update the information as appropriate.
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