

Let's Talk About Creating a Pro-Home Culture



Does your facility have a pro-home culture?

What is a pro-home culture?

It is an environment in which all in-center hemodialysis (ICHD) team members including the nephrologist routinely discuss, educate, and advocate for home therapy as a treatment option for every patient.

What are the key components of a pro-home culture?

- Patient education that begins at the time of diagnosis of kidney disease, focusing on the different types of ESRD care and the benefits of each.
- A reliable referral system to home programs that provide peritoneal dialysis (PD) and home hemodialysis.
- A team of in-center hemodialysis and home dialysis staff who work collaboratively to support patient treatment choices.
- Support of physician and facility leadership in referring patients to home therapy.

Do you have the right structure to build a pro-home culture? These issues should be addressed before you work with your in-center hemodialysis team to build your culture and should have the full support of your leadership team.

- Does your physician group advocate for home therapy including both PD and home hemodialysis?
- Have the patients referred to your facility received chronic kidney disease education about their treatment options prior to being referred?
- Does your home program staff consider all patients to be potential candidates for home hemodialysis, and do they think creatively to solve issues?
- Do you have good referral patterns for PD catheter placements?
- Is there a trusting relationship between your in-center team and the home team?



With the right structure in place, your work to build a pro-home culture will create an environment that ensures all patients have access to and are encouraged to consider home therapy as an option.

Let's talk about creating a pro-home culture in your facility.

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STEP 1:

Start by discussing the benefits of home hemodialysis for the patient with your ICHD team. Here are some important considerations to highlight:



- Patients tend to have better clinical outcomes on home therapy, reducing their need for hospitalization, thereby potentially increasing their lifespan.
- Patients on a home dialysis prescription receive more frequent dialysis leading to increased energy levels and better fluid volume control, which may lead to a decrease in medications. They also can have a much more liberalized diet.
- Being on home therapy gives patients greater scheduling flexibility so that they may participate in activities that are important to them.
- A home modality allows patients to travel, dialyzing around their schedule.

Rationale: Educating all staff on the benefits of home therapy for patients is important. Here are some reasons why:

- When the opportunity arises, any staff member can discuss home dialysis with the patient rather than waiting for staff from the home department, which may cause the patient to lose interest.
- Understanding the benefits of home therapy helps staff advocate for patients in a unified way, preventing a divide between home and in-center staff. The story becomes “we are all here for the patients.”
- It’s easier for in-center staff to cross-train to become home modalities staff if needed.
- The person with the best rapport with the patient can provide education on home modalities, allowing the patient to learn from those they trust most.
- Having all staff educated on home modalities ensures ongoing patient education.



STEP 2:

Teach your in-center staff how home therapies are performed.

- Provide a demonstration of how to set up home dialysis equipment and review how patient training is provided.
- Discuss the supplies and space needed in the home; this is one of the most common patient concerns.
- Teach staff about the most common complications patients may experience on a home therapy.

Rationale: Here are some reasons why in-center staff need to know how to do home therapy and how to maintain in-center staff home modality training:

- Understanding the equipment and the processes required to do home therapy helps staff to discuss concerns that patients may express with their ability to do home therapy.
- Once educated, any member of the team can keep staff up to date and be educated on home dialysis. Often vendors will offer lunch and learns with staff to help educate them on home modalities.

STEP 3:

Develop a process/system in your facility to offer routine education/communication on home therapies.

- Plan education on home therapy options as part of all new patient training and continue that education routinely (i.e., quarterly). Keep a spreadsheet noting patients’ current decisions on home therapy and any follow up needed.
- Offer different ways to teach patients about home therapy. For example, have home therapy staff or a vendor demonstrate equipment for patients in the lobby, create a visual display on benefits of home therapy, or invite home patients to speak with other patients.
- Encourage the patient’s physician to have individual discussions about home therapy as part of the treatment plan.

Rationale: Developing a process in your facility to offer education is important. Here’s why:

- Having a plan helps you to stay on track.
- Using a standardized tool like the Method to Assess Treatment Choices for Home Dialysis (Match-D), developed by the Medical Education Institute can help you evaluate patients and put a process in place.
- Having a process will allow you to monitor those who may be interested, those who need more education, and those who may not be candidates so you can follow up appropriately.

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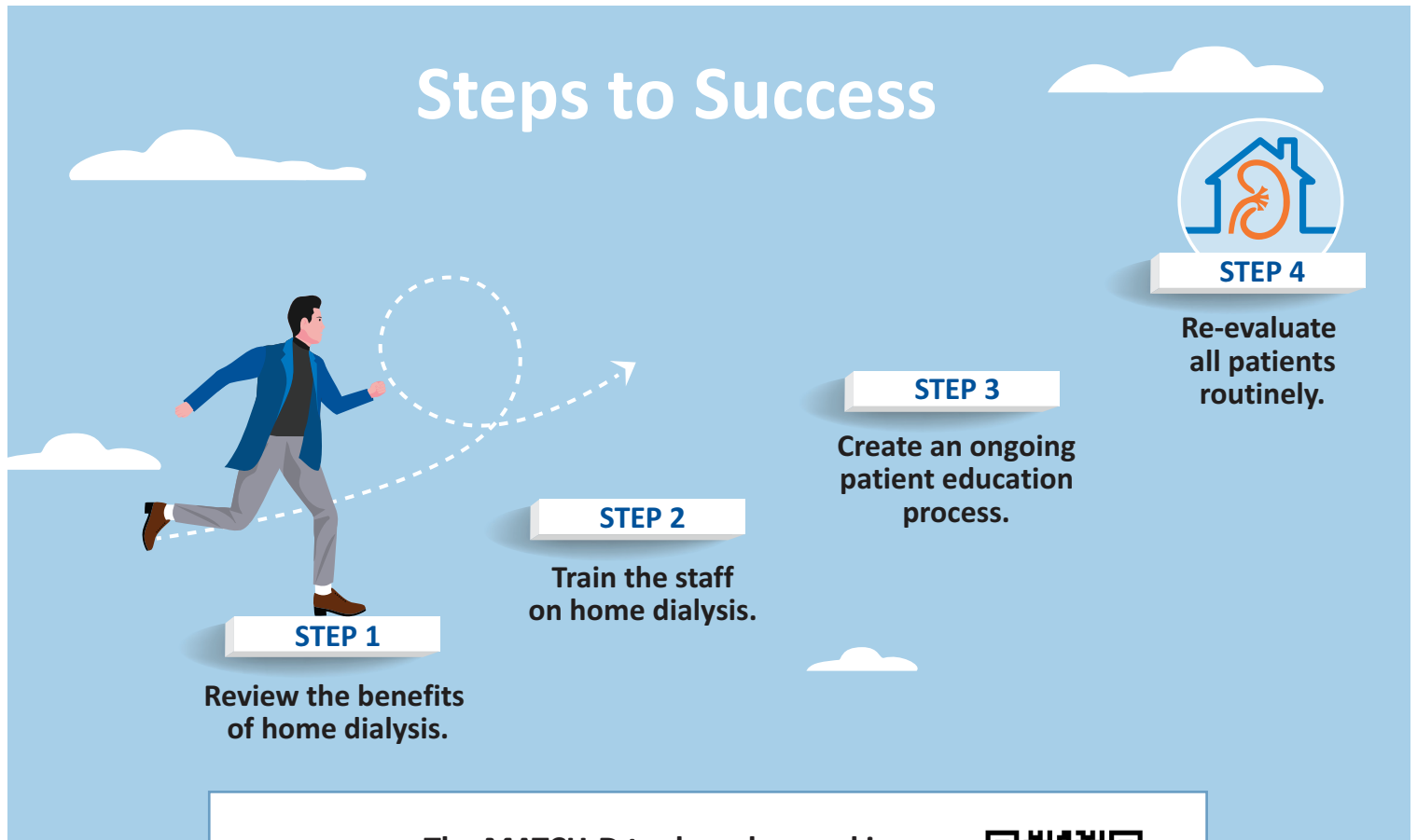
STEP 4:

Re-evaluate all patients and your processes to offer home therapy on a regular basis.

- Are there changes in the patient's health or situation that might make home therapy a more viable choice?
- Do you offer continuing education and support to provide a steady stream of information about home therapy?

Rationale: Re-evaluating all patients and your processes to offer a home therapy is important. Here's why:

Often when patients begin dialysis, they may feel overwhelmed with information and life changes. Offering education over time or in a different format can help them better understand it. Also, circumstances change, and home therapy may be a better fit due to those changes.



The MATCH-D tool can be used in evaluating a patient's candidacy for home dialysis.

homedialysis.org/match-d



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