



Understanding Peritoneal Dialysis (PD) as an Option

Use this resource during a staff meeting or huddle to:

- Provide staff education on the two types of peritoneal dialysis.
- Ensure patients understand that peritoneal dialysis can be incorporated into their daily life and provides more independence.

Important Facts

- **Types:** There are two types of PD: one that can be done throughout the day (Continuous Ambulatory Peritoneal Dialysis), and the other during the night while the patient sleeps with the help of a machine (Continuous Cycling Peritoneal Dialysis).
- **Abdominal surgeries:** Routine abdominal surgeries, such as hernia repair, C-section, and some transplants, do not prevent PD as an option. The patient's nephrologist and surgeon will help evaluate the options of peritoneal dialysis.
- **Vision or hearing-impaired patients:** Patients with hearing or vision impairments can do PD at home. There is a PD machine that features voice guidance and visual pictures that guide patients and caregivers through detailed instructions on how to use the system.
- **Storage space:** Patients do need some space for PD supplies. A closet-sized space is typically needed for supplies. Other ideas to help with storage may be stashing small supplies under the bed or ordering less supplies more frequently.
- **Infection/peritonitis:** When patients follow the procedures to perform their dialysis treatment, risk of infection is minimal. Shortcuts to the treatment process are never recommended for any reason.
- **General hygiene:** Once the PD catheter site has healed (about 10–14 days), patients may shower daily. The patient should always consult with the healthcare team. The home training nurse will provide instructions and training on how to care for the catheter site before and after a shower.
- **Pets:** Yes, PD patients can have pets! Patients should clean the space in which they are dialyzing and ensure pets stay out of the room when connecting or disconnecting from the machine.

Facilitate Communication

How can you challenge yourself and your team's perception to ensure all patients can explore how peritoneal dialysis might work for them?

Resources

- [Peritoneal Dialysis May Be the Best Option for You](#)
- [Know the Facts About Home Dialysis Choices](#)