I’d rather be at home

Your Guide to assisted APD
What is Peritoneal Dialysis (often called PD)?
A treatment given to people who have kidney failure.

All PD patients are supported at home by a team of professionals from their renal unit.
What is Automated Peritoneal Dialysis (APD)?

APD uses a machine to do the dialysis overnight whilst the patient sleeps.

What is Assisted APD?

If you are unable to do some of the dialysis yourself, you can use assisted APD. This is where a trained healthcare assistant visits the patient’s home during the day to help out. The visit usually takes about 30 minutes.

What does an assisted APD Healthcare Assistant do?

- Clear the dialysis equipment from last night’s treatment
- Set up the dialysis equipment for the next treatment
- Records some simple observations
- Reviews and orders dialysis supplies
- Contacts patients own PD unit if any problems arise
If you are not at home when the healthcare assistant visits...

...the healthcare assistant can still carry out many of these tasks. All you need to do is to make arrangements to have your house keys available for them, either by using a key safe or leaving the key with a neighbour. This may also be useful if you can’t get to the door easily to let the healthcare assistant in.

Who can benefit from Assisted APD?

- New patients who need support when they first start their treatment.
- People who need long term help to do their dialysis at home.
- Patients who need help temporarily after an operation or illness.
Your regular care visits stay the same

If you use the assisted APD service, you will still have regular clinic and home visits from the nurses at your renal unit. They will continue to provide all the care that you need as a dialysis patient. The assisted APD service will simply enable you to have your dialysis at home.

A flexible treatment

Some people have a visit every day, whereas others need help a few times a week, or when their usual carer is not available.

People can use the assisted APD service for as long as they require support. Many people have been using assisted APD for years; others need the service for a few weeks or months.

If you think you don’t need help from the assisted APD service at any point you should contact your nurse or doctor to discuss this with them.

If for any reason you need to cancel your assisted APD visit, this needs to be done by your dialysis nurse or doctor. Phone the renal unit and ask them to cancel the visit.
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