

Starting dialysis on Time At home on the Right Therapy (START) Newsletter

Project Update

In November, we introduced the START Project to you. The START Project is being conducted in partnership with the Kidney Health Strategic Clinical Network™ and Alberta Kidney Care [including the Northern and Southern Alberta Renal Programs (NARP and SARP)]. In this newsletter, we learn more about one of our key objectives:

- Maximizing the safe and effective use of peritoneal dialysis (PD)

Alberta Kidney Care has identified this as a priority project to address service pressures, plan for future demand, achieve optimal return on investment in renal services, and improve patient outcomes.

How are we maximizing the safe and effective use of peritoneal dialysis?

The START Project is applying a proven and multifaceted intervention to increase the safe and effective use of PD. In a nutshell, this involves:

- Standardizing the assessment of all patients starting dialysis in Alberta;
- Applying an integrated team approach to identifying, educating and collaborating with patients to make an informed choice about dialysis;
- Documenting the process of care; and
- Implementing a system of audit and feedback to identify barriers to PD and develop interventions to address those barriers.

Where are we now?

Assessing the state of PD in Alberta:

Learning about how we can improve our PD programs requires that we inform ourselves in a number of ways, including:

- Identifying areas of concern and interest to stakeholders (medical and operational leads, physicians and front-line staff in Alberta) regarding use of PD in their programs (completed);
- Obtaining historic data from NARP and SARP so we know where we are starting from (in progress); and
- Collecting granular data about the process of starting and keeping patients on PD from October 1, 2016 onward (ongoing).

Over the next year, we look forward to hosting three collaborative workshops (June 2017, November 2017 and March 2018) during which we will engage stakeholders to utilize the information we have collected to:

- identify barriers to the safe and effective use of PD in their program,
- develop and implement interventions to address those barriers; and
- monitor their progress to ensure we can achieve sustainable change.

If you have any questions or would like to be added to the distribution list, please contact:

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