

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

Project Updates

In partnership with the Kidney Health Strategic Clinical Network™ and Alberta Kidney Care, the Northern and Southern Alberta Renal Programs (NARP and SARP) are participating in the “Starting dialysis on Time At home on the Right Therapy” (START) project.

The START project aims to address the increasing demand for dialysis, with the following specific goals:

- increase the safe and effective use of PD; and
- decrease inappropriate initiation of dialysis in outpatients

Participating sites are standardizing and optimizing the process of dialysis treatment selection to ensure that all patients with kidney failure are identified, assessed for eligibility, offered appropriate treatments, and allowed to make an informed choice about their treatment.

Data Highlights

To assess the impact and progress of the START Project, SARP and NARP provided data about the patients in their programs during the 12-month period immediately prior to the implementation of the project.

Based on this historical data, provincially:

- 25% of patients who started dialysis during the historical period received PD within the first 6 months of starting dialysis therapy
- 16% of patients started dialysis during the historical period with a mean eGFR above target

Since the introduction of the START Project, we have observed provincially:

- 9% increase in the percentage of new patients who received PD within 6 months of initiating dialysis compared to historical data
- 8% decrease in the percentage of outpatients who started dialysis with an eGFR above target

Innovation Collaborative: June 22, 2017

The first START Innovation Collaborative took place in Red Deer at the end of June. Multidisciplinary teams of front-line staff from Edmonton, Red Deer, Medicine Hat, Calgary and Lethbridge came together to identify areas for improvement in their programs.

For the first time in Alberta, front-line staff received standardized and actionable provincial-level data that maps out the steps required to initiate peritoneal dialysis therapy safely and effectively.

Participating sites used this data to identify areas of strength and share ideas for improving the use of peritoneal dialysis in their programs and ensuring outpatients start dialysis at the appropriate time.

What's Next?

Participating sites continue to implement their unique action plans with the support of the START Project Co-chairs and the START Project Working Group.

Teams will share their progress and continue to refine their action plans at the next Innovation Collaborative on **December 11, 2017**.

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

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