Increasing the number of patients receiving home haemodialysis (HD)

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Aim

Increase the number of patients having home haemodialysis (HD) from 6 patients to 20 patients by March 2025.

Background

There has been a low number of patients receiving home HD at the Royal Free Hospital NHS Foundation Trust (RFL) due to lack of staffing, resources and patient and staff education. In January 2024, RFL secured funding from NHSE to restructure the home HD programme, along with a dedicated full time CNS. Through increasing the number of patients being supported at home with dialysis, this project is supporting the Trust to meet national guidelines and give patient the choice of care at home.

What was done

The QI project focused on training and engaging patients and staff, identifying gaps in resources and procuring and allocating appropriately. Furthermore, work continues to be done to support patients to transition to home HD by running engagement sessions and home HD chats with potential patients. Through this QI project the number of patients receiving home HD has gone up from 6 patients to 15 patients in January 2025.

Staff and Patient Feedback

Great support from hospital staff at Renal as well as Home Dialysis team.

I didn't know this is an option for patients and I strongly support this to improve patient's quality of life.

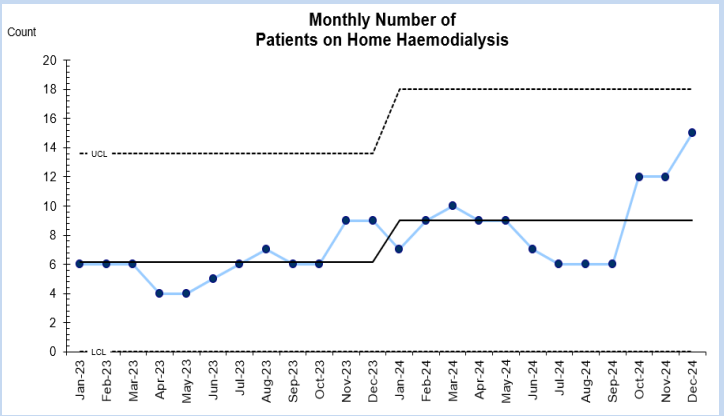
I feel like I have got my life back.

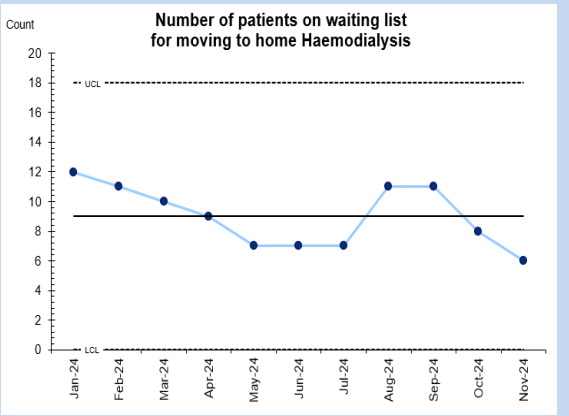
Change Ideas

- Deliver staff education sessions
- Promote with pre-dialysis team (LCCT)
- Build rapport with shared care link nurses and unit manager
- Tailored Home HD pathway and training materials
- Mediate conversations with council and private landlords regarding home modificatons
- Deliver patient education sessions every two months
- Utilise existing resources (e.g. poster and leaflet) to further promote home HD
- Have regular home HD chats with existing dialysis patients

Data

The **outcome measure** of number of patients on home HD each month has increased from a baseline average of 6 to 9. However, as of January 2025 there are currently 15 patients on Home HD, and this number is projected to increase further due to the implemented changes.





Furthermore, as a **process measure** the project has been monitoring the number of patients on the waiting list to ensure that there are patients who are engaged and interested in moving to home HD when resources become available. There are currently 6 patients on this waiting list.

Conclusion and Learning

Communication and collaboration

- Communication among MDTs was key to identify potential patients
- Coordination with the renal technical support team regarding home modifications and water testing was helpful; the process was taken a long time at the beginning due to miscommunication
- Important to build rapport with staff

Patient engagement

- Really important to listen to patients and understand what their needs are
- Shared decision making with patients was at the heart of the work
- Utilise peer support – patient's personal experience is the strongest influence
- Communicate realistic timeline for potential patients
- Trusting relationship with patients is key to success

Processes

- It took significant time for machines to arrive, but this time was used to get the background work ready

Next Steps

More work has been planned in the coming months to further recruit and engage potential patients including:

- Sharing home HD promotional posters and developing approaches to engage the pre-dialysis patients in considering home HD as an option early on
- Machine "road show" to be supported by industry provider (Vantive)
- Identification of prevalent patients in pre-HD phase and in the current HD population
- Sharing and creating patient testimonial videos
- Continue engaging with the peer support program supported by London Kidney Network