

Renal Services

Everything I need to know about going home following a peritoneal dialysis catheter insertion under local anaesthetic

Introduction

This information tells you about what will happen when you go home from hospital following insertion of your peritoneal dialysis catheter.

Peritoneal dialysis (PD) is a method of removing waste products and excess water from your blood when your kidneys are no longer able to perform these functions.

To have this type of dialysis it is necessary to have a soft flexible tube called a catheter inserted into the abdomen. The catheter is left in place for as long as you are having peritoneal dialysis treatment.

When can I go home?

Most people can go home 6 hours after having the PD catheter inserted providing they are eating and drinking normally, and have passed urine.

The PD nurses will give you a date to come back to have the catheter flushed and your wound checked, usually five to seven days after the procedure. The Biopatch dressing stays on for seven days. Please do not leave the hospital until the PD nurses have spoken to you.

You will be sent home with a laxative medicine. It is important to take this regularly to help prevent the catheter being dislodged inside you. Having a



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bowel movement two or three times a day is normal at this stage. If you are concerned that the laxatives are too strong for you please telephone the PD nurses for advice.

You will be asked not to bath or shower until your wounds have healed fully, this usually takes about two weeks. The PD nurses will let you know when it is safe to shower.

You are advised not to drive or do any strenuous activity for two to three weeks after the procedure. Driving too soon after an abdominal procedure may affect the validity of your car insurance.

When will I begin to use the catheter to dialyse?

The PD catheter can be used for dialysis once the abdominal wounds have healed fully; this is usually two weeks after the procedure.

Healing can be delayed by the following:

- If you are Diabetic
- If you have been on long term steroid medication

The PD nurses will check how well you are healing five to seven days after the operation. If you are not on haemodialysis, we will take a blood test regularly to monitor the level of waste in your blood. We will also test the catheter to see if it is working a week before training.

If your wounds are healing well and the catheter is working you will be given a date to attend the PD department to learn how to perform your PD exchanges at home, this is known as PD training week.

If your wounds are slower to heal, your training will be postponed. The PD nurses will continue to monitor your wounds and blood waste levels until you are ready to start your PD training.

When will my dialysis fluid be delivered?

The dialysis fluid and equipment is delivered to your home the week after your catheter has been inserted. You will be telephoned to confirm the delivery date.

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Where do I have to go for PD training?

PD training takes place in the PD department, located at University Hospital Coventry and Warwickshire, Walsgrave site, fifth floor, East wing, opposite the entrance to Ward 50.

How long will it take to learn to perform my PD exchanges?

It is essential that both the training nurse, and you the patient, are confident that you can manage your dialysis safely. Most people are ready to perform their dialysis exchanges unsupervised at home after five days of training. A longer period of training will be provided should you need it.

When you are fully trained and performing your dialysis exchanges at home the PD nurses are available for telephone advice and support. Please do make use of this, as often a small problem can be resolved over the phone to prevent a more serious problem developing.

Contact Numbers

PD nurses 024 7696 8308 (7.30am – 8.00 pm)

Ward 50 024 7696 8257 / 8258

The Trust has access to interpreting and translation services. If you need this information in another language or format please contact 024 7696 8308 and we will do our best to meet your needs.

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