

Financial Support for Home Dialysis Patients in Australian Capital Territory

This fact sheet provides information about financial concessions and subsidies available to patients in Australian Capital Territory (ACT) who manage their dialysis treatment at home. However, financial support differs between each State or Territory. This resource has been developed by the HOME Network, a group of healthcare professionals who are working together to facilitate a positive change towards increased use of home dialysis.

Home haemodialysis patients face increased utility costs that result from elevated water usage and electricity requirements necessary to run their dialysis equipment. As this is a recognised medical requirement, the ACT Government provides a subsidy through electricity retailers to assist home dialysis patients with the running costs of their dialysis equipment. Many water suppliers in the ACT also offer a concession water usage costs for home dialysis patients. Some States and Territories offer ongoing financial assistance and/or a single set-up payment for home dialysis patients. For more information about what is available in the ACT, contact the Department of Health.

Life Support Rebate - (Home Dialysis Payment)

The Life Support Rebate alleviates the financial stress of individuals with a life-threatening condition. The ACT Government subsidises the cost of increased electricity requirements for home dialysis patients. The annual rebate amount for **"2023-2024 is \$128"**, which is applied to the eligible applicant's electricity bill at a daily rate of approximately **"34.793 cents"**.

For more information and how to apply, [click here](#).

Home Haemodialysis Rebate - (Water Concession)

As part of the ACT Government Assistance Scheme, eligible home haemodialysis patients can receive a rebate of up to **\$1200** per year or **\$3.29** per day on their water costs. Having a dialysis machine at home makes you eligible for both the Home Haemodialysis Rebate and the Life Support Rebate.

For more information about the rebate, [click here](#).

Utilities Concession Scheme

Concession card holders may be eligible to receive ACT Government-funded rebates on their utility costs. The concession for utilities includes electricity, natural gas, water, and sewerage. The rates for these services are calculated daily and vary depending on the season.

The daily rates from **1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024** will be based on the annual concession of **\$750**. The daily summer rate from 1 November to 31 May is approx. **95.071 cents**. The daily winter rate from 1 June to 31 October is approx. **357.843 cents**.

For more information about the scheme and eligible concession cards, [click here](#).

Essential Medical Equipment Payment (EMEP)

The introduction of a carbon price in 2012 has impacted on the price of electricity. To offset the electricity price impacts on home dialysis equipment, the Federal Government provides an Essential Medical Equipment Payment of **\$183** annually to Commonwealth Concession Card holders.

Once claimed, the Essential Medical Equipment Payment will be paid annually until the person's circumstances change.

For more information about this payment, [click here](#).

Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS)

The PBS Schedule lists subsidised medications for Australian residents with a valid Medicare card and overseas visitors from [RHCA](#) countries. Families, couples, and individuals can receive a subsidised cost threshold known as the 'Safety Net.' From 2023, the threshold is **\$262.80** for concession card holders and **\$1,563.50** for other eligible clients. If you use one pharmacy, they will keep a record of your medications and can provide safety net threshold details. If you use multiple pharmacies or outpatient hospital pharmacies, ask for dispensed item records.

Other ways to save: talk to your chemist about generic brands, non-PBS items, your GP about combining medicines, or using outpatient pharmacies at public hospitals.

For more information about PBS, [click here](#).

What is the HOME Network?

Through research, education and advocacy, The HOME Network aims to enable healthcare professionals with knowledge and resources to empower more people with chronic kidney disease (CKD) to embrace the freedom of home dialysis. This national initiative brings together a solution-focused group of home dialysis healthcare professionals from across Australia. The group draws upon all levels of evidence to provide insights and practical options for colleagues throughout Australia to facilitate a positive change towards increased use of home dialysis.

For more information about the HOME Network and to explore resources available to healthcare professionals and patients, please go to our website, www.homenetwork.net.au.

Contact information for ACT

The Home Network

Email: info@homenetwork.net.au

Web: www.homenetwork.net.au

Kidney Health Australia

Kidney Health Information Service Ph:
1800 454 363

Web: www.kidney.org.au

ACT Department of Health

Canberra Connect Contact Centre
Ph: 132 281

Web: www.accesscanberra.act.gov.au

ACT Revenue Office

Ph: (02) 6207 0028 – Select Option 5 for Utilities Concession

Email: concessions@act.gov.au

Utility supplier	Website	Contact Number
ActewAGL	www.actewagl.com.au	131 493
Origin	www.originenergy.com.au	132 461
Energy Australia	www.energyaustralia.com.au	133 466

Please note that the information provided in this fact sheet is correct as of August 2023 and is subject to change without notice. This fact sheet is intended as general information only and is not complete or definitive. Kidney Health Australia and the HOME Network is not liable, and does not take any responsibility whatsoever for reliance on such information.