Welcome to the third edition of Home Dialysis Update, our newsletter from The HOME Network.

Welcome to our latest newsletter, the third edition, all of which we hope have helped to keep you updated on our latest news and provide you with vital “Home dialysis” tips. You will find the first release of our Website Traffic data, the latest version of the Financial Fact Sheet and the insight of one of our multi-centre clinical studies.

We did it! The TEACH-PD Pilot Study has completed. Thank you for the TEACH-PD Trial Steering Committee and of course the wonderful team and PD patients from the 2 pilot sites.

We are very excited to have successfully recruited the first member from New Zealand and also the first consumer representative. We would hope to have both of them on board at our next Workshop in early September 2018.

We hope you will get inspired to share your ideas and suggestions with us and spread the word to your colleagues to do the same. Happy reading!!

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TEACH-PD Pilot Study Completed!

A Targeted Education Approach to improve Peritoneal Dialysis outcomes (TEACH-PD trial) aims to determine whether implementation of standardised training modules based on the International Society for Peritoneal Dialysis (ISPD) guidelines, targeting both PD trainers and patients, results in a longer time to the composite end-point of exit site infections, tunnel infections, and peritonitis in incident PD patients compared with existing training practices.

The Pilot study has been completed and analysis is in progress. The Trial Steering Committee is planning a pragmatic phase 4, multi-centre, multinational, cluster-randomised trial (CRCT), randomising PD units to implement TEACH-PD training modules targeted at PD trainers and incident PD patients versus standard existing practices.

We are inviting Nurse Unit Managers of the PD Unit, PD Nurses, nephrologists, study coordinators and industry partners who are attending the ANZSN 2018 ASM Meeting to join us for a complementary afternoon tea meeting. This will provide the perfect opportunity to give an introduction and seek feedback about the study. The meeting will be held close to the International Convention Centre in Sydney, at 3:00pm - 3:30pm on Monday 10 September 2018. If you are not attending the ANZSN 2018 ASM Meeting and haven’t registered, you can still attend this TEACH-PD meeting. Kindly register by Friday 10 August 2018.

Please circulate this message to your colleagues who may be interested.

Link to TEACH-PD meeting registration: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LK2JMDJ
The HOME Network: who are we?
By Josephine Chow, Chairperson

The HOME Network is a national initiative that 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.

Since its establishment in 2009, the HOME Network has had considerable successes in developing resources for patients and healthcare professionals in line with its objectives and making optimal use of members’ time available to commit to projects.

Through a directed process of reflection and analysis of strengths, weaknesses and opportunities, the HOME Network has refined its vision and mission to identify solutions and strategies to promote and enhance home dialysis.

Today, members are committed to driving outcomes aligned with the group’s renewed strategy and working towards achieving our overall mission statement “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 to embrace the freedom of home dialysis”.

The HOME Network has been working within three focus areas:

- **Healthcare Professional Education**: Improved awareness, knowledge and training about home dialysis for healthcare professionals.
- **Patient Factors**: Targeted action that enables healthcare professionals to address factors impacting on the ability of Australians with CKD to embrace the freedom of home dialysis.
- **Technology and new initiatives**: Support for new initiatives and technologies that strengthen home dialysis utilisation as part of establishing flexible and innovative models of care that strengthen support for people on home dialysis including their carers.

Working in these three focus areas is part of our continuing campaign to drive increased uptake of home dialysis across Australia. We hope you will lend your support as we work together to keep pushing for world class home dialysis care for our patients.

The HOME Network Website Traffic Statistics (Snapshot - June 2018)

Check this out! - The HOME Network Website Traffic Report for the month of June 2018. Please keep it up and VISIT THN!
The HOME Network Member Profile

Name: Paula Woodward, NSW.
Role: Long-standing member (adopted!)

What is your role and where are you from? I’m a medical education consultant, and Director and Founder of The Med Collective, a medical education agency. We’re quite different from other agencies – we bring together the best independent contractors to deliver projects for our clients and we place patient outcomes at the centre of all projects we work on. Our business model is also underpinned by the philosophies of social enterprise, allowing us to provide pro bono support healthcare professionals and organisations who want to implement independent medical education projects that drive improved patient outcomes.

How long have you been with The HOME Network? I have been with THN since soon after it was commenced in 2009.

What prompted you to join The HOME Network? I initially became involved to provide medical education support to the group, supported financially by Roche Products, who provided funding for workshops and activities in the early years after the group was formed. I helped to name the HOME Network!

The HOME Network has staying power – which I think is a measure of the passion of its members. Over the years, I stayed in touch with Josephine Chow and the HOME Network members and enjoyed seeing the group flourish as an organisation independent of funding from industry sources. In 2013, I again began supporting THN’s workshops and helped the group to redefine its strategic direction as an independent organisation.

These days, I’m proud to have been adopted as active member of the HOME Network. I may not be from a clinical background, but I love sharing my education and communications expertise, and I have formed strong working relationships and friendships with our members as we work together to drive uptake of home dialysis by Australians with CKD.

What projects have you been involved with? It might be more correct to ask – what haven’t I been involved with! I work alongside Josephine and our members to drive many of the projects that THN undertake. Whether it’s preparing and facilitating THN’s annual workshops, writing content for their website, supporting their regular newsletters, writing and designing posters and brochures … and so on.

Of course, one of the projects I’m most proud of is TEACH-PD. I am one of the primary writers for this training package, working alongside our amazing members to bring together this programme that has real potential to change the way nurses are prepared to be home dialysis trainers in Australia and internationally. I can’t wait to see it go to the randomised controlled trial!

Future plans with The HOME Network? I have a passion for driving better patient outcomes – and I strongly believe that home dialysis can offer this to many people with late-stage CKD who require dialysis. I’m currently working with the group on a series of educational resources designed to extend the reach of information about home dialysis, and I’ll be helping support the adaptation of TEACH-PD to suit nurses who are preparing to train patients to do home haemodialysis. I’m really looking forward to developing and facilitating THN’s next workshop, which is scheduled for September 2018. There’s still so much to do and it’s going to be another exciting year for the HOME Network!

The HOME Network Annual Workshop — coming up in September 2018!

We love this time of year because we get the chance to get together and plan out our activities for the next 12 months. Stay tuned for our next newsletter as we’re bound to have lots more news on upcoming projects and more chances for you to get involved!

Good News for Home Dialysis Patients in Perth

Dialysis patients who are not concession card holders can be out of pocket by over $1,500 each year due to utility payments, e.g. water, power and other expenditure associated with home dialysis. In May 2018, it’s announced that Water Corporation in Western Australia will help pay and clear outstanding customer debt as part of a raft of new programs available for families who have members with kidney disease undertaking home dialysis that requires higher water use. The household could receive up to 180,000 litres of water free of charge annually. Advocacy groups such as The HOME Network, have welcomed the programs which would help ease the financial burden faced by home dialysis patients. We would hope that similar programs be introduced in other utility areas like energy.


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Journal Watch
THN members have been working hard writing up publications. Please find the below publication and feel free to access the full document on the HOME Network website by clicking on the link: http://www.homenetwork.net.au (go to the Resources tab then Publications and newsletters).

Uptake of home dialysis in younger adults: case studies that illustrate the multifaceted influence of home circumstances on dialysis decisions

Clinical Case Report, 5(12): 2051-2058.

The three cases reported here were collected as part of a multicentre, observational descriptive cohort study using mixed research methods, which was designed and implemented by members of the HOME Network. Three cases from adults, all younger than the average age of participants in the study (57 years) all illustrated complex relationships between themes. These three cases are presented as individual narratives. These cases were selected because they illustrate the multifaceted and complex issues of homeownership (as related to income and employment). Within each case, quotations are provided that relate specifically to housing issues as they relate to their experiences of home dialysis. The cases are discussed to provide insight into how gaps in the health and social services could be filled.

These three narratives provide examples of how young dialysis patients sustain home dialysis. The summarized case reports retain the complexity of how commonly identified factors such as home circumstances interact with employment and support. Insights are provided for practitioners showing how individual experiences reflect multiple perspectives of a single phenomenon; in this case, how homeownership affects dialysis. While not generalizable to other dialysis patients, or broader populations, these case reports from Australia offer contrasting examples of what has happened in their individual cases. By describing the context of each case, they provide examples of how dialysis, a context-sensitive treatment, can be experienced. Service providers and policymakers should caution against overly simplistic assumptions related to suitability for home dialysis based on individual factors such as age, financial factors, employment, or housing.

Key Clinical Message: Younger adults considering home dialysis need support to ensure home circumstances are suitable and affordable. Home circumstances relate closely to the financial burden reported by younger home dialysis users. Attention to home circumstances of younger patients with chronic kidney disease by policymakers, funders, and healthcare practitioners is needed.

Financial Fact Sheet
Since 2011, the Financial Taskforce of the HOME Network (previously in conjunction with the Kidney Health Australia), have developed State and Territory specific financial support fact sheets which provide information about the financial concessions and payments available to people at home on dialysis. These financial assistance available for people at home on dialysis differs for each State and Territory. These fact sheets has acted as an enabler to support financial lobbying activity.

Find out more on The HOME Network website: http://www.homenetwork.net.au/
Update on Focus Areas

HCP Education: Melinda Tomlins

The pilot study for the TEACH-PD is completed. The modules are being reviewed and modified from the results and feedback of the pilot sites. Where to next for the HCP Education Group - the plan has always been for training modules for both PD and Home HD. Currently the HCP Group are commencing work on the HHD modules (TEACH-HD). The modules will consist of the same core modules as TEACH-PD however, there will be an HHD focus. In addition, there will be two HHD case study based modules. An exciting step forward for the HCP Group after seeing the PD module be developed and piloted to move onto the HHD modules.

News & Resources

New associate members continue to come in as a result of our newsletters being sent out. Feedback about the newsletters has been very positive and has influenced how we continue to put together our newsletters. If you know of any colleagues who may be interested in reading our newsletter, please forward a copy and let them know how they too can join as an associate member (see below for more information).

The HOME Network’s website at www.homenetwork.net.au is a great place to go find out about our past and current projects underway in this exciting area. We have recently added some new resources and publications to the website You can also email Josephine Chow (the HOME Network Chairperson) at contact@homenetwork.net.au for more information about the HOME Network and the group’s activities.

Finally, if you have any news relevant to home dialysis to share, please email the editor at news@homenetwork.net.au.

Share your big idea!

At the HOME Network, we aim to increase HCP networking and to share some of the novel ways in which we as healthcare professionals are making a difference for our CKD patients. Often, there are fantastic projects underway locally that we believe deserve a national platform for sharing.

Help us by sharing your ideas and ways in which you are supporting your CKD patients to choose the home dialysis option! Please email the editor at news@homenetwork.net.au to share your big idea. We will publish a selection of great ideas in each newsletter. Please include your contact details so that colleagues may get in contact to learn more.

(And... stay tuned for more news about how we plan to support the sharing of ideas in future!)

Join the HOME Network as an associate member!

We hope you enjoyed reading this edition of the HOME Network newsletter, Home Dialysis Update. It’s an exciting time for the HOME Network and home dialysis. If you’re not already an Associate Member, now is your chance to join us!

As an associate member, you will receive our newsletters containing articles, information and advances in the field of home dialysis as well as information about upcoming events. This is also the first place you will hear about our new projects starting – your chance to get involved in a project that you feel passionate about.

To join as an associate member, use this link to enter your details: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/35DWRRV

Please share this link with any healthcare professional who you think would be interested in joining as well.

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