

Financial Support for Home Dialysis Patients in Western Australia

This fact sheet provides information about financial concessions and subsidies available to patients in WA 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 WA Government provides a subsidy through electricity retailers to assist home dialysis patients with the running costs of their dialysis equipment. Many water suppliers in WA 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 WA, contact the Department of Health.

Life Support Equipment Energy Subsidy Scheme - (Home Dialysis Payment)

Home haemodialysis patients receive a payment of **\$624-\$780** per year to assist with increased utility charges. This payment is administered monthly by hospitals in Western Australia. For more information, contact your home haemodialysis training unit.

The Western Australian Government subsidises the cost of increased electricity requirements for home peritoneal dialysis patients with an annual rebate of **\$103** per year. To be eligible, patients must hold a Pensioner Concession Card, Health Care Card or Health Care Interim voucher. For more information, [click here](#).

Water Concession- Home Haemodialysis

Concession card holders may be eligible for the following concessions based on the following areas:

- Metro customers: a 50% concession on 150 kilolitres of water use per meter reading per year.
- North country areas: 50% concession on 600kL of water use per meter reading year.
- South country areas: 50% concession on 400kL of water use per meter reading year.

For more information visit, [Water Corporation](#) and [Water consumption rebate](#).

Rebates for Concession Card Holders

The Western Australian Government provides additional concessions on some utility costs for holders of various concession cards.

Energy Assistance Payment: Eligible cardholders can receive a rebate of **\$326.33** per year for Synergy or Horizon Power customers. For non Synergy or Horizon Power customers, check your eligibility for the [Energy Concession Extension Scheme](#).

For information about the Energy Concession, [click here](#) and contact your energy supplier for eligibility or similar rebates.

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 WA

The Home Network

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Web: www.homenetwork.net.au

Kidney Health Australia

Kidney Health Information Service Ph:

1800 454 363

Web: www.kidney.org.au

Western Australian Government

Office of State Revenue – (08) 9262 1486

lifesupport@dtf.wa.gov.au www.finance.wa.gov.au

<https://www.wa.gov.au/service>

Utility Supplier	Website	Contact Number
Horizon Power	www.horizonpower.com.au	1800 267 926
Synergy	www.synergy.net.au	131 353
Water Corporation	www.watercorporation.com.au	131 385

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