

**‘To Grow Homebased Therapies I Would Envision to Have...’**

Eric Goffin

*Nephrologist*

*Saint Luc UC Louvain*

Expanding home-based dialysis offer can significantly enhance well-being, quality of life, empowerment .... for individuals in need of autonomous renal care. Here's a pragmatic view on how to stimulate the growth of home-based dialysis:

1. **Build a** specific self-care dialysis unit where pre-dialysis education is performed and where patients on peritoneal dialysis or home hemodialysis can be trained and be admitted in case of respite care necessity. It is thus mandatory to recruit and train skilled nephrology nurses and technicians proficient in home-based dialysis, ensuring they can provide high-quality care in a home setting.
2. **General approach:** Employ targeted marketing strategies to increase awareness and accessibility to home-based dialysis services, collaborating with hospital administration, medical, paramedical and technical staff, healthcare providers and patients' association.
3. **Patient Education:** Provide adequate pre-dialysis educational program for patients and their families, offering guidance on at-home dialysis procedures, self-care, and ongoing support beyond the dialysis treatments.
4. **Patient-Centered Approach:** Offer various forms of dialysis, including both peritoneal dialysis and home hemodialysis; then, tailor dialysis modality choice, schedules and treatment plans to fit individual patient needs and preferences, ensuring flexibility and personalization in their care. For home-hemodialysis, this includes the possibility for the patient to perform solo-dialysis and to be dialyzed through a central catheter.
5. **Safety Protocols and Standards:** Establish comprehensive safety protocols for at-home dialysis procedures, ensuring both patients and healthcare providers are well-protected during these treatments.
6. **Care Coordination and Support Service:** Set up a framework for continuous support to patients, including regular check-ups, access to helplines, and coordination with local healthcare providers or emergency services.
7. **Technological Integration:** Integrate telehealth and remote monitoring systems to allow for consultations with nephrologists, virtual check-ins, and remote oversight of dialysis procedures.
8. **Feedback and Continuous Improvement:** Encourage feedback from patients and healthcare professionals to continually improve home-based dialysis services, ensuring they align with evolving patient needs and advancements in the field. Visit patients at home during a treatment procedure.
9. **Compliance and Legal Considerations:** Adhere to all legal and regulatory requirements associated with providing home-based dialysis services, ensuring patient safety and quality care.

In summary, the growth and success of home-based dialysis services depend on a combination of using the more-advanced technology, patient-centered care, a well-trained professional team, continuous improvement based on feedback, and compliance with regulatory standards.