

Vulnerable PD patients to get support

A pilot project to provide support for at-risk patients on home-based peritoneal dialysis (PD) will be launched this summer through a partnership involving the BC Renal Agency, Fraser Health and Vancouver Coastal Health. Following a competitive process "Nurse Next Door," a private home care service provider, was contracted for the 12-month pilot.

The pilot is targeted at PD patients who are elderly and/or disabled, with compromised strength or dexterity, and those with mental health challenges or addictions, but who are otherwise well-suited to home-based PD therapy. The goal is to improve the ability of such patients to succeed with PD and to avoid a preventable transition to hemodialysis.

Caregivers employed by Nurse Next Door will be trained to provide technical assistance for cyclor dismantling and set-up. These services will be available to patients up to seven days a week. It is important to note that PD patients involved in the pilot will still undergo PD training and will continue to perform many aspects of their PD care as this initiative is intended as an "assist" program.

Up to 60 patients are expected to meet the criteria for receiving home support through the pilot. Patients will be selected from the PD programs at Vancouver General, St. Paul's, Abbotsford and Royal Columbian hospitals.

Following completion of the pilot next year, an assessment will be done to evaluate its effectiveness and viability for implementation province-wide.
