



MR. TOM BEAULIEU
MLA, TU NEDHÉ - WIILIDEH

MAR 29 2018

Oral Question 242-18(3): Dialysis Services

This letter is in follow up to the Oral Question you raised on March 12, 2018, regarding Dialysis Services.

In order to start peritoneal dialysis (PD), a patient must have the dexterity and capability to perform the exchanges themselves. Patients are expected and required to be self-sufficient in the administration of their PD. Patients who start peritoneal dialysis participate in a 6 week comprehensive training program in Edmonton, Alberta. These patients are encouraged and supported to bring a family member with them, in order to participate in the training and to provide assistance if necessary. Sending an additional family member for peritoneal dialysis training in Edmonton would require Medical Travel to make an exception request to the Deputy Minister of Health and Social Services, who would be responsible for approving the request.

The first line of contact for trouble-shooting and urgent care is through the Peritoneal Dialysis Unit in Edmonton. The decisions around who should be trained in the administration of a patient's PD are made by the primary Nephrologist, in collaboration with the patient, family, community health centre staff, Territorial Renal Program and other disciplines (e.g. social services).

The existing Northern Alberta Renal Program contract provides for necessary training/education of Northwest Territories nurses. This contract is in the process of being re-negotiated. Nurses in the Beaufort-Delta will soon receive training on peritoneal dialysis to ensure that they can be resources for dialysis patients admitted to hospital. The Department of Health and Social Services will develop evidenced-based clinical practice guidelines to further assist nurses to provide care to PD patients as the need arises.

Thank you.

Glen Abernethy
Minister of Health and Social Services

c Mr. Tim Mercer
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly

Mr. David Hastings
Legislative Coordinator
Department of Executive and Indigenous Affairs