

the homeconnection

A Publication for Home Dialysis Patients

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Your medical directors explain new and improved medication procedures

By Dr. Bob Winrow, Home Hemodialysis medical director and Dr. Pamila Keech, Peritoneal Dialysis medical director

- HH** We continually review our methods to improve your home dialysis care. Here are
- PD** some changes that will happen this summer:

New way to help you manage anemia

Starting this summer, all home patients will move from Aranesp to Epogen to help manage anemia.

Why are we changing to Epogen?

All patients in Northwest Kidney Centers dialysis units receive Epogen. By switching home patients to the same medication, we will be able to manage your anemia better. Switching to Epogen will also allow you to move between home programs and in-center programs without having to switch medications. Therefore, switching to Epogen will help make dialysis safer and smoother.

How will I get Epogen?

You will get Epogen as a shot—every week or two, or maybe once a month.



Dr. Pamila Keech



Dr. Bob Winrow

Why do I need medication for anemia?

When you have kidney failure, your kidney does not produce enough erythropoietin, a hormone that tells the bone marrow to make blood. Without this hormone, your bone marrow stops making new blood cells. This causes anemia. Both Aranesp and Epogen are different types of this hormone. A shot of Epogen tells your bone marrow to wake up and make more blood!

IV iron medication will change to Venofer Why switch?

Venofer can be given quickly, in about two minutes. Using it will increase the amount of iron we can give, if your prescription calls for it.

Why do I need iron medication?

In order for the Epogen to work, your bone marrow needs the building blocks to make blood. Iron is an essential building block.

Key: **HH** Home Hemodialysis **PD** Peritoneal Dialysis

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New Renton home dialysis hub set to open in October

HH In October Northwest Kidney Centers will open a home dialysis training hub in Renton. The 21,000-square-foot building, located at 602 Oakesdale Ave. S.E., will have three clinic rooms and two training rooms shared between home hemo and PD. Patients, staff and equipment from our Mount Rainier Kidney Center will move there as well.

We'll contact PD patients at the end of the summer to talk about the option to switch your clinic visits to this location. Home hemo clinic visits will be coming to this site at a future date.

Want to find out more? Talk to your nurse or call your unit.

Home hemo: 206-292-2558

PD: 206-292-2285



The new Renton dialysis clinic and home training hub.



My Northwest Kidney Centers— a way to track your dialysis online

HH My Northwest Kidney Centers is our new web program for home dialysis patients to keep treatment logs online. This program is now available for patients on home hemo.

Keep records handy

The program allows you to create daily dialysis logs online. It also stores all your information, so you can easily look back at past logs.

Receive timely feedback on your dialysis

This program gives you a secure, round-the-clock way to track your dialysis, view your treatment history and communicate with your kidney care team. Our staff will be able to provide you with more timely feedback on your dialysis.

Get trained on the program

Ask the home hemo staff about the program during your next clinic visit. They will arrange for you to get training.

PD We are currently testing the PD portion of this program. We hope to make it available to PD patients soon.