

From: [Dr. Maxwell Fisher](#)
To: [DHSR.SMFP.Petitions-Comments](#)
Subject: [External] Addition of Home Hemodialysis at Chowan Home Dialysis Unit in Edenton, NC
Date: Monday, March 6, 2023 2:58:43 PM

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Hello,

I would like to communicate the reason for adding a home hemodialysis station to the Chowan Home (Currently PD Only) Dialysis Unit in Edenton, NC.

As I am sure you are aware, CMS has placed a recommendation that 50% of dialysis patients use home modalities. This has been shown to lower cost of care and improve outcomes including survival in management of ESRD. Furthermore home dialysis patients have higher transplant rates. Addition of a home hemodialysis station would not only save our state money with Medicaid patients in this county but improve outcomes for all patients with offering home hemodialysis in the Chowan County area.

Currently Peritoneal dialysis is the only modality which we can use at the Chowan Home unit. There is no other home dialysis unit in this county. There is no home hemodialysis unit in this county either, in fact the nearest unit which our practice can optimally train and manage home hemodialysis patients is almost 70 miles away! This is insurmountable for most patients, as 6 weeks of training 4-5 days a week in a home hemodialysis training center is needed to equip patients to perform home dialysis.

As you I am sure are also aware peritoneal dialysis is a very effective way to dialyze patients, but typically after about 2 years it becomes quite difficult. As a result at about the two year mark, most peritoneal dialysis patients will need to switch to hemodialysis. Currently In Center Hemodialysis is the only option for patients in this county who fail Peritoneal Dialysis. Thus, we would like to offer home hemodialysis for the reasons I have outlined above. I feel patients in Chowan County in rural eastern NC should have the same opportunities for management of their ESRD as patients in major cities across our great state. Thank you for considering this request.

Sincerely,
Maxwell E. Fisher, MD
Medical Director, Chowan Home Dialysis Unit, Edenton, NC
Eastern Nephrology Associates

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