

Dear x

I am writing to you as one of your constituents, as I am concerned about the impact of the cost of living increases on kidney patients and their families across the UK, particularly in relation to energy costs. I am asking you to call on the Chancellor and the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care to prevent the financial challenges currently facing everyone becoming insurmountable for many people living with chronic kidney disease (CKD), by taking these steps proposed by Kidney Care UK:

- Introducing additional crisis income support for vulnerable energy customers, including people with CKD and patients on home dialysis.
- Working with energy companies to develop capped tariffs for people on medical treatments at home such as dialysis for many hours a week.
- Ensuring the NHS provides consistent reimbursement for the additional energy and water costs to patients undergoing dialysis at home.

<please add a paragraph here about your own personal experience in relation to CKD and the cost of living increase. You can include the following information or amend the email accordingly, based on your own personal experiences and concerns.>

People from lower socio-economic groups are more likely to develop CKD and people with CKD are more likely to fall down the socioeconomic scale due to the many challenges of the condition. The additional costs of disability, such as the extra costs of a restricted diet and feeling cold all the time due to anaemia, compound this inequality. These difficulties are becoming increasingly acute in light of rising costs and kidney patients cannot wait any longer for action.

The home dialysis population are particularly vulnerable to energy cost increases not least because almost half of people receiving home haemodialysis (44%) are in the two most deprived groups in society. The cost to run the dialysis machine depends on the dialysis prescription but could be £590 to £1450 annually (before energy price cap rises). Further increases after April 1st will present a huge challenge to many patients. The [Renal Service Specification](#) states the NHS should reimburse the additional utility costs yet access to information about support with costs and to the funding itself currently depends on a postcode lottery.

Without action to address rising energy costs, people on home dialysis may face difficult choices about spending on food, heating or dialysis, feel forced to return to in-centre dialysis or, in the worst case, decide to shorten their dialysis sessions, risking their health.

Government interventions providing short term help will help but consistent reimbursement for running medical equipment at home, longer term capped tariffs and immediate financial support is urgently needed. Please urgently raise these concerns with the Chancellor and the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care.

I would be very happy to meet to discuss these matters further.

Best wishes.

Name

Address with postcode