



13<sup>th</sup> July 2022

Dear stakeholder

### **Reimbursement of additional utility costs for patients receiving home dialysis**

NHS England accepts there can be additional utility costs incurred by patients on home dialysis and there are systems in place to enable patients to reclaim these costs from their dialysis provider (NHS Trust). These arrangements are set out in the national service specification [A06/S/b] *Haemodialysis to treat established renal failure performed in a patients home* but NHS England recognises the need to ensure equitable arrangements for all home dialysis patients including patients receiving peritoneal dialysis (PD) and for children.

In light of rising utility bills and concerns about the impact on patients, NHS England is working with the renal dialysis community to ensure that the systems and processes designed to reimburse home dialysis costs are functional and accessible, and reflect increasing costs incurred. To do this, NHS England is undertaking the following actions:

- Working with specialised renal hospitals to ensure that reimbursement processes are available for all patients undertaking home haemodialysis therapy (as mandated within service specification [A06/S] *Haemodialysis to treat established renal failure performed in a patients home*)
- Supporting those hospitals who do not have a robust process in place for reimbursement to develop one, liaising with regional renal clinical networks and other regional hospital providers for support and guidance as required.
- Signposting hospitals to supportive reimbursement guidance and tools, for example those developed by renal charity groups such as the UK Kidney Association.
- Asking all hospitals to pro-actively establish a comparable reimbursement mechanism for adult patients undertaking home peritoneal dialysis (PD).
- Request that all providers of specialised paediatric renal services establish reimbursement processes for all children undertaking home dialysis treatments. These should be based on the arrangements for adult haemodialysis patients.
- Working with renal clinical networks and regional commissioners to seek regular assurance that a reimbursement process is available for all dialysis patients that need it and identifying and supporting those hospitals that are struggling to implement one.
- Looking to include utility cost reimbursement in revised national renal service specifications when they are re-written/reviewed.

### **Further Information**

For more information on national policy regarding reimbursement for patients receiving dialysis at home, please contact the Internal Medicine National Programme of Care team: [england.npoc-internalmedicine@nhs.net](mailto:england.npoc-internalmedicine@nhs.net).