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<b>SUBJECT</b>  Information Regarding Peritoneal Dialysis Treatment		<b>BY</b>    Vincent D. Gordon, Deputy Secretary Office of Medical Assistance Programs

**PURPOSE:**

The purpose of this Medical Assistance (MA) Bulletin is to provide information to providers regarding the use of peritoneal dialysis (PD) in treating beneficiaries with kidney failure, the potential benefits of PD over hemodialysis, and the screening of beneficiaries for PD suitability.

**SCOPE:**

This bulletin applies to all MA enrolled inpatient hospitals, renal dialysis centers and physicians that render renal dialysis services to MA beneficiaries in either the Fee-for-Service, including ACCESS Plus, or the managed care delivery systems.

**BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION:**

The *American Association of Kidney Patients* (AAKP) provides information on their website that describes the benefits of PD over hemodialysis and how to screen patients to determine if they are suitable candidates for PD treatment. The Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare (Department) is issuing this MA Bulletin to disseminate information extrapolated from the AAKP's website ([www.aakp.org](http://www.aakp.org)). The Department encourages providers to discuss with MA beneficiaries all treatment options for kidney failure, including PD treatment.

PD is a process by which waste products pass from the patient's body through the peritoneal membrane into the peritoneal (abdominal) cavity where the bath solution (dialysate) is introduced and removed periodically. PD is a covered Medicaid service on an outpatient and home basis.

Those patients utilizing PD typically experience the following benefits compared to patients using hemodialysis:

- Improved ability to remain employed and productive.
- Flexible schedule and increased independence.

**COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS BULLETIN SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO:**

The appropriate toll free number for your provider type

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<http://www.dpw.state.pa.us/provider/healthcaremedicalassistance/index.htm>

- Reduced need for medical transportation.
- Higher satisfaction with PD over hemodialysis.

## **Who is a Suitable Candidate for PD treatment?**

### *Social Components*

The MA beneficiary:

- should be in the acceptance phase of their kidney disease and recognize the need for treatment so they are ready to learn and handle self-care at home. The desire for success is critical.
- should be compliant with the current dialysis prescription and medications. Non-compliance on hemodialysis suggests the likelihood of poor success with home therapy self-care.
- should have either family support (best) or community/healthcare support services. Support should be consistent.
- should have transportation to and from training sessions for administering PD treatment.
- should understand that PD needs to be performed every day, seven days a week.
- should be emotionally stable. The MA beneficiary should not be in a state of depression or suicidal.
- must be willing to self-inject medications like Epogen or have a caregiver willing to inject medications in the MA beneficiary. If prescribed and determined medically necessary by the MA Program, home health nursing services may assist with training the MA beneficiary/caregiver in medication administration.
- should have someone at home to accept supply deliveries during the day.
- should have a phone for routine contact and emergencies.

### *Physical Components*

The MA beneficiary:

- should be able to learn and comprehend concepts presented over at least a 2 hour period of time.
- should be able to read large type with or without glasses (at a minimum); be able to follow along in class, and independently solve some problems at home.
- should be able to perform fine motor movements (manual dexterity) and have good hand strength and hand-eye coordination.
- should be able to hear instruction, read lips, or know sign language and be able to read.
- should have a PD catheter that works and is free from infection.
- should be well enough to learn how to perform PD.

### *Language*

The MA beneficiary and trainer should be able to communicate in the same language.

### *Time*

The MA beneficiary should be available for training up to 24 sessions as determined by the MA beneficiary's needs. The MA beneficiary's support person should also be available to attend the training sessions.

### *Home Environment*

Consideration should be given to the MA beneficiary's living environment to ensure there is an adequate amount of storage space for the supplies needed for PD treatment, there are a sufficient number of electrical outlets to power the necessary medical equipment, the lighting is adequate for the beneficiary to administer PD treatment, and the living environment is clean.

### **PROCEDURE:**

Healthcare providers should fully explain to MA beneficiaries the treatment options for kidney failure, including PD. Providers should also thoroughly assess MA beneficiaries to determine if they are suitable candidates for PD treatment.