

How Dialysis at Home Has Changed My Life Forever!

By: Doug Edwards
Peritoneal Dialysis Patient
Davita Hilliard Dialysis

Subject Matter Expert NW9



In October, 2015 I started my classroom training on how to do my dialysis at home. My nephrologist had his doubts about it and would not give his approval for me to make the switch. He was sure that I was the wrong candidate for it because he knew of my past record of not taking care of myself while I was in hemodialysis. You see, I missed a lot of my weekly treatments because I really hated going to the clinic three times a week! Anyway, I was scared! My confidence factor was very low. I just knew that it would be my luck to get an infection that would put me in the hospital. I thought that I would fail in the training class and I wouldn't be able to do it correctly. However, my nurse instructor eventually took all of my fears away!

Guess what? By the time I finished my third day of training I knew I had the confidence to really make peritoneal dialysis work in my life.

That's right! I realized that I would not have to go to the dialysis clinic three times a week anymore! I would no longer have to be wrapped up in blankets just to keep warm in that freezing cold dialysis room. I wouldn't have to put up with all the loud talking in the dialysis room and all those bells and alarms going off from the machines. ***And finally, no longer would I have to put up with that darn needle being stuck in my arm!***

Well, it's been 10 months now and no infections! My life has TRULY changed FOREVER! I have my life back now, and my days are totally free to do whatever I want without the depressing feeling knowing that I have to sit in a chair for 4 hours three times a week!

And, do you know the best thing that has happened to me? I started back to work part time as an UBER driver making great money! And believe me, that really helps out with my monthly budget. Now I have the time and the money to begin enjoying life again, and none of this would have been possible if I never made the effort to learn more about **peritoneal dialysis!**

In the end, I'd like to spread the word to all the hemodialysis patients that if you are miserable and feeling resentful because you know you have to go to dialysis three times a week and if you truly want to make a positive change in your life, then talk to your social worker immediately!

Only you can make a conscious decision to change your life forever!

To file a grievance, please contact us:

IPRO End-Stage Renal Disease Network of the Ohio River Valley
3201 Enterprise Parkway, Suite 210, Beachwood, OH 44122
Patient Toll-free: (844) 819-3010 (Patients only) • Phone: (216) 593-0001
Fax: (216) 593-0101 • E-mail: info@nw9.esrd.net • Web: esrd.ipro.org