

# My Choice, Home Dialysis

## MYTH VS. REALITY

### Peritoneal Dialysis (PD)

#### MYTH

**You'll get an infection!**



#### REALITY

Peritonitis (an infection of your abdomen) is preventable and rare in good PD Clinics (occurs about once every seven years). An infection from a hemodialysis access is more common and more likely to be fatal.

**You have to get rid of your pets to do PD at home.**



Lots of people do PD at home and still have pets. Clean well and ensure your pets stay out of the room when you connect or disconnect.

**If you had previous abdominal surgery, you can't do PD.**



Routine abdominal surgeries, such as hernia repairs, C-sections, and some transplants, do not prevent PD as an option.

**If you have vision or hearing problems, you can't do PD.**



Assist devices are available to help with most tasks involved in doing PD.

**You need to have some kidney function to do PD.**



Kidney function will always be checked, but PD can be done without any kidney function.

**If you are overweight, you can't do PD.**



A catheter placed differently into your abdominal cavity may be a better option. PD can still be done.

**If you are non-compliant in your dialysis center, you can't do PD.**



People with a high need to control situations may actually do better at home.

**You need to have a lot of space at home to do PD.**



You do need some space for PD, but many people who live in efficiency apartments, trailers and other small spaces find a way to make PD work if they want it.

**Only one kind of PD is available.**



Yes and no. PD involves having a special fluid in your abdomen, but you can choose how to handle the process, for example, manually or automated (while you sleep).

**When you do PD, you can eat and drink whatever you want.**



Dietary and fluid intake limitations remain in place, but you have a bit more "wiggle-room" with your limits and choices.

**When you do PD, you are free to take either a bath or a shower!**



A bath is not permitted unless you have a pre-sternal catheter placement. A shower is permissible and you will be taught how to care for your catheter site after your shower.

*\*Icons courtesy of Vecteezy.com*

