

Your inpatient dialysis

This leaflet is for kidney patients and explains more about how your dialysis will be managed while you are an inpatient at Guy's or St Thomas' hospitals. If you have any further questions, please speak to a doctor or nurse caring for you.

Where will my dialysis treatment take place?

If you are an inpatient (overnight patient) on the kidney care wards at Guy's Hospital (Richard Bright or Patience ward) your dialysis will be done either on the ward or on Astley Cooper Dialysis Unit, 5th floor, Borough Wing. The location will depend on your medical health needs and the kidney care team will discuss this with you.

If you are an inpatient at Guy's Hospital on any of the other wards, we will arrange for you to have your dialysis on Astley Cooper Dialysis Unit.

If you are an inpatient in the critical care / intensive care units at Guy's Hospital or St Thomas' Hospital, your dialysis will be done at your bedside.

If you are an inpatient at St Thomas' Hospital, the kidney care team will assess your needs to ensure your dialysis is managed appropriately. Although we do not have a dialysis unit at St Thomas', we do have facilities to provide dialysis on Northumberland Ward for two patients. If we feel that you require bedside dialysis we will transfer you to this ward for your dialysis treatment and then transfer you back to your own ward once the treatment has been completed.

Some kidney patients are well enough to travel from St Thomas' to Guy's for dialysis on Astley Cooper Dialysis Unit. If your medical team have assessed you as being fit enough to travel we will arrange for an ambulance to transfer you for treatment and take you back afterwards. We will discuss this with you in advance.

How often will I dialyse?

We will try to keep to your usual dialysis schedule as far as possible. Most inpatients will be dialysed for four hours three times a week but this may vary according to your health needs. You should expect to have regular blood tests so that we can assess your dialysis requirements.

Is it the same kind of dialysis that I am used to?

Most inpatients will receive the same kind of dialysis that they are used to in our dialysis units. If you are receiving bedside dialysis you will notice that the equipment is different from what you are used to. This is because it is a portable dialysis system; however the actual treatment is very similar to standard dialysis. The dialysis team will be very happy to explain the equipment to you.

Who will carry out my dialysis while I am an inpatient?

All of your dialysis will be managed by trained dialysis nurses. In the critical care units your dialysis will be managed by the dialysis team and the critical care staff.

If you are having dialysis at the bedside at Guy's or St Thomas', the acute dialysis team will be caring for you headed up by the charge nurse.

The kidney care team will be assessing your kidney care needs throughout your stay in hospital. You should expect to be seen regularly by the doctors and/or specialist nurses.

Contact us

If you have any questions or concerns about your inpatient dialysis, please contact the dialysis matron on **07769 912740**.

Please ask the staff on your ward to contact the matron if you are unable to do so yourself.

For more information leaflets on conditions, procedures, treatments and services offered at our hospitals, please visit www.guysandstthomas.nhs.uk/leaflets

Pharmacy Medicines Helpline

If you have any questions or concerns about your medicines, please speak to the staff caring for you or call our helpline.

t: 020 7188 8748 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday

Your comments and concerns

For advice, support or to raise a concern, contact our Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS). To make a complaint, contact the complaints department.

t: 020 7188 8801 (PALS) **e:** pals@gstt.nhs.uk

t: 020 7188 3514 (complaints) **e:** complaints2@gstt.nhs.uk

Language and accessible support services

If you need an interpreter or information about your care in a different language or format, please get in touch:

t: 020 7188 8815 **e:** languagesupport@gstt.nhs.uk

NHS 111

Offers medical help and advice from fully trained advisers supported by experienced nurses and paramedics. Available over the phone 24 hours a day.

t: 111

NHS Choices

Provides online information and guidance on all aspects of health and healthcare, to help you make choices about your health.

w: www.nhs.uk

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