



Smethwick Dialysis Centre
Unit 2 Rabone Park
Rabone Lane
Smethwick
B66 2NN

Tel: 0121 371 8321
Email: admin.assure@uhb.nhs.uk

Dear Service users,

At Assure dialysis we are passionate about getting services users more actively involved with their care and treatment. At the unit we are starting to roll out a training programme called shared-care. The main aim of the programme is to encourage service users to take more ownership of their care within the unit setting.

As the service user you can be as involved or as little as you like and this can involve participating with the entire dialysis process or focusing on specific areas such as taking observations or preparing you access. However there are areas within shared-care that you might already participate in but aren't aware, for example weighing yourself, washing your hands or holding your fistula after disconnection. There are many benefits to shared-care and service users that are already involved have said when they first started on dialysis they felt a loss of control. However this has completely changed since shared-care has been introduced to them because they are more actively involved.

If you wish to participate within the shared-care programme you will be closely supported by the unit's staff to develop the skills that you require. There is no pressure with shared-care and the overall aim is to make service users feel more comfortable and confident during treatment. However if you feel that shared-care isn't for you, then you can with-draw from the programme and you will continue to be dialysed by the units nurses. Following on from shared-care there is always the option of home haemodialysis but this option will only be explored if it is the right pathway for you. However home haemodialysis is not always an option for some service users and there is no pressure to progress you can continue with share-care within the unit setting.

For more information on shared-care please speak to Naomi, Angela or Lino. There are more resources available explaining shared-care in more depth and a questionnaire. The questionnaire has broken down every task involved with in the dialysis process to allow service users to show interest where they would like to participate.

Many thanks
Yours sincerely

Naomi Saunders (RN)