



New survey finds that one-third of UK dialysis patients still not offered the choice of home haemodialysis despite NICE guidelines for COVID

ALCESTER, England and BEVERLY, Massachusetts, 20 October 2021: Quanta Dialysis Technologies Ltd (“Quanta” of the “Company”, a medical technology company committed to making kidney care more accessible with its SC+ haemodialysis system, announced today the results of the UK Dialysis Patient Experience Survey, showing the wide variance in care experienced by UK dialysis patients, as well as challenges faced in assessing self-care and home haemodialysis (HHD). The survey revealed:

- **1 in 3 (34%)** respondents who receive their dialysis care in-centre stated that they had not been offered the choice of HHD by their renal unit.
- HHD delivers notable physical and mental health benefits, with **74%** of HHD patients reporting positive changes to their physical wellbeing and **94%** reporting improvements to their mental health since starting to dialyse at home. **97%** of patients would recommend HHD to in-centre dialysis patients.
- A wide range of perceptions around safety when dialysing in-centre during the COVID-19 pandemic, with two thirds (**66%**) of in-centre patients concerned about receiving dialysis during the pandemic. **47%** of in-centre patients said they were unable to maintain social distancing and **27%** of in-centre patients reported concerns about travelling to receive treatment.
- Many patients who are currently dialysing in-centre are not able to make informed, evidence-based decisions about the future of their care despite the [Rapid Guidelines](#) produced by the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) at the start of the pandemic advising that healthcare professionals should ‘*think about whether it is possible to increase home dialysis provision*’. Despite this, of patients that were successfully dialysing at home, **nearly a quarter (23%)** had to ask their centre to discuss HHD as an option.

Physical and mental benefits of home haemodialysis

The survey revealed that **74%** of HHD patients experienced positive changes to their physical wellbeing. HHD gives patients choice and flexibility around their personal dialysis schedule, enabling them to prioritise their lives and not their treatment. Dialysing more frequently at home means that patients do not have to restrict food and drink intake so much, which is required with standard thrice-weekly dialysis.

These daily restrictions also have a major negative impact on mental health¹. **94%** of HHD patients told the survey that their mental health had improved since starting dialysis at home. Wider clinical evidence shows that patient safety can be significantly improved, with HHD patients having up to 13% lower risk of death² compared with in-centre dialysis patients, as HHD enables the option of longer and more frequent sessions³ carried out flexibly to fit around patients' lives.

The survey found that **29%** of in-centre patients were concerned about safety when travelling to and from the dialysis centre during the pandemic, adding to their mental health burden, with **66%** concerned about the pandemic whilst receiving treatment in-centre. The average patient spends a total of 52 days (14%) each year travelling to the dialysis centre, waiting for appointments and dialysing⁴. Despite the COVID-19 rapid guidelines on dialysis service delivery advising that kidney units should think about whether it is possible to increase home dialysis provision for patients⁵, only **7%** of patients surveyed had started dialysing at home in the last 12 months.

Future of haemodialysis care

Of the respondents who were not offered HHD, **32%** were interested in getting more information on suitability. Responses also showed that when patients were offered the choice in their dialysis care, it was typically at the start of their dialysis journey and not always properly explained – meaning that making informed, evidence-based decisions was more difficult.

Despite the ambition of the NHS Long Term Plan⁶ to promote self-management across a whole range of care settings, **60%** of respondents who receive their dialysis in-centre had never been offered the choice to self-care in centre, and **43%** would like to be offered the choice to consider self-care.

Reflecting on the findings, John E. Milad, Chief Executive Officer of Quanta said:

“Every patient in the UK should have the right to make an informed, evidence-based choice about how and where they dialyse. Our survey results reveal that, at present, there is unequal opportunity for patients to make these choices, which can have devastating consequences. Empowering patients to conduct their dialysis sessions at home, at a time that suits, allows them to fit dialysis around their lives. This provides far greater opportunity for education and work, which can mean the difference between full-time employment versus relying on long-term benefits. Transitioning to home haemodialysis also carries large economic and social benefits for working-age patients, and can help reduce the burden on family members having to provide additional care and support.”

¹ <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2813124/>

² <https://jasn.asnjournals.org/content/23/5/895>

³ <https://www.england.nhs.uk/commissioning/wp-content/uploads/sites/12/2015/01/a06-serv-spec-haemodialysis-renal-failr-home.pdf>

⁴ <https://www.kidney.org.uk/home-dialysis-the-advantages>

⁵ <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng160/resources/covid19-rapid-guideline-dialysis-service-delivery-pdf-66141894031045>

⁶ <https://www.longtermplan.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/nhs-long-term-plan-version-1.2.pdf>

Whilst no one could have predicted the devastating impact that COVID-19 would have on dialysis patients, this survey data has reinforced how crucial it is to bring about changes to ensure that the lessons learnt from the pandemic can support the greatest possible improvements in health and wellbeing for every dialysis patient in the UK.”

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About Quanta Dialysis Technologies

Quanta Dialysis Technologies is reinventing kidney care to be more accessible to every patient in every setting with its SC+ haemodialysis system. With performance comparable to larger, traditional machines, SC+ is a modular and powerful solution that provides the clinical versatility needed to deliver dialysis care across multiple settings. As a portable system with an intuitive simple user interface, SC+ is designed to be operated by a broad range of users to bring dialysis directly to patients.

SC+ is commercially available in the United Kingdom for home and hospital use and in the United States is FDA-cleared (K210661) for use in chronic and acute care settings.

For more information, please visit: www.quantadt.com.

Survey Methodology

This survey was undertaken by 81 UK dialysis patients in March 2021 on Microsoft Forms by Quanta Dialysis Technologies. The survey was completed online. A copy of the dataset can be provided on request.

The [Dialysis Patient Experience Survey](#) will be published online on 18 October and will be available [here](#).