



The Home Hemodialysis Utility Grant

What is the Home Hemodialysis Utility Grant?

The Home Hemodialysis Utility Grant offsets the costs for the increased water and electricity usage associated with home hemodialysis treatments. The grant was created by the Ontario Renal Network and its Regional Renal Program partners as part of the Home First Strategy. It is funded by the Government of Ontario.

What does the grant aim to achieve?

The Home Hemodialysis Utility Grant is intended to support patients' treatment at home, by helping to reduce financial barriers to home hemodialysis.

Who is eligible?

In order to be eligible for the grant:

- You must reside and undergo home hemodialysis treatments in Ontario through a Regional Renal Program and have a valid OHIP card
- You or a family member must pay for the utility costs (water, electricity or both) in your home.

How do I enroll for the Home Hemodialysis Utility Grant?

If you are on home hemodialysis, the first step is to contact the Home Dialysis Coordinator in your Regional Renal Program. Next you must show or send them a recent copy of the utility bill(s) you pay for. This could be a water bill, electricity bill or both. The bill(s) must show your name or the name of your family member at the address where your home hemodialysis equipment is. The bill(s) should be no more than 4 months old.

Once I am enrolled, what do I need to do?

You do not have to provide bills on a continuing basis. If you move and remain on home hemodialysis, you will need to provide updated bills from the new address. You may also be asked by your Regional Renal Program for a water bill to update the water rates for your municipality every two years.

When will I receive grant payments?

You will receive two payments per year for each 6 month period that you are on home hemodialysis. Payments cover the following periods:

- April 1st to September 30th
- October 1st to March 31st

Grants will be given for any time on home hemodialysis since April 1, 2017. Please contact your Regional Renal Program for more details.

How is the grant calculated?

Home Hemodialysis Utility Grant is based on an average electricity rate across the province, your municipal water rate, the proportion of time you were on home hemodialysis during the six month period, calculated electricity and water usage amounts for the hemodialysis equipment used in your home set-up, and the treatment schedule prescribed by your nephrologist. Your grant will be based on which utilities you pay for.

Note: The Ontario Renal Network allocates funds for your grant to your Regional Renal Program, which in turn pays the full amount to you – none of the funds are retained for overhead or administration.

You can request more details about your specific grant from your Regional Renal Program.

How will payments be delivered?

You will receive payment through your Regional Renal Program hospital either by cheque or through electronic funds transfer.

I am on home peritoneal dialysis. Am I eligible for the Home Hemodialysis Utility Grant?

The grant offsets out-of-pocket utility expenses related to home hemodialysis treatments only.

How does my grant affect my tax credits?

You cannot claim a tax credit for any utility expenses covered through the Home Hemodialysis Utility Grant.

If you choose not to enroll, or have other expenses not covered by the grant, you may be eligible to claim tax credits. Please consult your tax professional to discuss your options.

The formula for calculating your grant is as follows:

Calculated water and electricity usage based on your:

- hemodialysis equipment
- treatment schedule

X

For water: Your municipality's water rate

For electricity: Either a standard provincial or Hydro One rate

X

Proportion of time you were on home hemodialysis during the six month period

To find out more please contact the Home Dialysis Coordinator in your Regional Renal Program.

Need this information in an accessible format?

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