

# Starting dialysis on Time At home on the Right Therapy (START) newsletter

Spring 2018

## A message from the START Co-chairs:

Over the past two years, we have had the privilege of co-chairing the START initiative and would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge all participants and share a few highlights and next steps.

## Congratulations!



On behalf of the Leadership teams of the Kidney Health Strategic Clinical Network and Alberta Kidney Care, we'd like to congratulate all of the front-line staff and management who have been involved in the START initiative on receiving the President's Excellence Award for Outstanding Achievement in Quality Improvement!

## Highlights:

The START initiative has been designated as a provincial quality improvement priority by AHS' Quality, Safety & Outcomes Improvement Executive Committee. This designation brings organizational support for effective scale and spread and accountability by the project team for regular progress reporting.

## Updates:

From June 2017 through March 2018 the Kidney Health Strategic Clinical Network hosted three Innovation Collaborative workshops, bringing front-line staff together from across the province to work toward improving the use of peritoneal dialysis and encourage the use of guidelines for the appropriate timing of dialysis initiation. To our knowledge, START is the first initiative to bring clinics, including front line staff, across the province together in an effort to improve the use of home dialysis therapies.

A nurse from one team stated: *"This has given me the permission to make the changes we have talked about for years"*

## Results to Date:

Thanks to the hard work of all of the teams, in the first year of the START Project, the percentage of patients province-wide who receive peritoneal dialysis (PD) within the first 6 months of starting dialysis increased from 25% to 32%, surpassing our target of 30%, with 5 out of 7 participating sites showing growth. During the same time period, the proportion of outpatients in Alberta initiating dialysis earlier than guidelines suggest decreased from 16% to 13%.

## Next Steps:

Over the next year, our focus is to support teams in maintaining the practice changes relating to the process of modality selection and dialysis initiation, and where potential exists, continuing to strive for further improved uptake of PD.

In order to support the transition and long-term sustainability of the initiative into renal operations, in collaboration with the KH SCN and Alberta Kidney Care leadership teams, we plan to complete a thorough evaluation of START by the end of September 2018. Once the final results are ready, we look forward to getting together and sharing them with the teams and other important partners and stakeholders.

Dr. Rob Quinn, Co-chair  
Dr. Rob Pauly, Co-chair  
Tracy Schwartz, Co-chair



## Reminders and Updates to the START Teams....

### Quality improvement is a journey that “STARTS” with you....

Over the next year we look forward to continuing to supporting your local quality improvement initiatives. Please continue to move forward with your action plans and tracking your progress on your balanced score cards. If you have questions or need additional support, don't hesitate to contact us.

As your team members complete cases using the web-based data collection platform, we will continue to provide updated data for your balanced score cards.

### Staying in touch...

- Regular Meetings — We are in the process of setting up some regular videoconference meetings where teams can come together to share progress and troubleshoot issues. Invitations to all teams will be sent out shortly.
- In-person Visits — We hope to schedule in-person site visits in late 2018 to share the results of the final project evaluation with you. Stay tuned!

### START Toolkit — A place to access and share information

We are working on creating an online space where you can stay in touch with one another, share and access tools, templates and obtain other important information. Stay tuned for the more information and the launch of your online START Toolkit.



Featured above: START Teams who attended the third Innovation Collaborative in Red Deer on March 22, 2018.

The Innovation Collaborative workshops provided front-line staff with a greater understanding of specific barriers to optimizing PD use and improving the patient experience, which allowed them to focus their quality improvement efforts.



**We welcome your feedback. If you have any questions or would like to be added to the distribution list, please contact:**  
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