Improving the pathway for Home Haemodialysis: National Nurses Board (NNB)

**Background:**

Although HHD is proven to be clinically effective with numerous benefits which contribute to improving the patients’ quality of life there is still poor uptake nationally. Studies have reported that providing adequate support and resources which meet patients individualised needs will help increase HHD programmes (NHS Kidney Care 2012)

In 2015, a number of Health Care Professionals from across various NHS trusts came together to form a network group to discuss the provision of home haemodialysis across the UK. From discussions this group quickly realised that although each trust had the common aim to offer home as a real choice for patients, and although they were successfully training patients to carry out their own treatment at home there were a variety of differing processes in place.

**Method:**
From the original network group a subgroup was created with the participation of Senior nurses from 5 units all of whom have a wealth of knowledge and experience. The represented units are Derby, Devon and Exeter, Portsmouth, Salford and Sunderland. This encompasses a wide geographical area with varied demographics and the National Nurses Board was formed. Over the past six months the group have been collecting data looking at patient referrals and pathways, and all had variations in practice. From the analysis of this data the group were in agreement that Standard Operating Procedures (SOP’s) were required in order to deliver best practice, and offer a safe, effective, efficient and equitable training programme for patients.

**Results:**

The group will work together as a collective to standardise changes to improve patient experience when moving to home haemodialysis and to share their work with the Renal community

* Initial SOP’s that require standardising and developing:-
	+ - * Nocturnal
			* Solo dialysis
			* Self-cannulation training
			* Workforce Provision

**Conclusion:**

Moving forward the National Nurses Board will work towards creating robust national standards for home haemodialysis to provide Renal units with a standardised approach to facilitating patients home ensuring a smooth pathway, training and continued support for patients and their families/carers.