



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive

## Dialysis Away from Base in Ireland 2019 Information for Patients and Carers:

In order to arrange Dialysis Away From Base (DAFB), patients must discuss with their clinical team on their suitability for haemodialysis treatment at another facility. Do not make any arrangements such as travel and accommodation until the location and time of DAFB is confirmed by the receiving dialysis unit. It is best to give as much notice as possible of travel plans, minimum 6 weeks if within Ireland and up to 3 months outside of Ireland.

There is an enquiry form that needs to be completed by your doctor and sent to the receiving dialysis unit prior to arranging travel. Please note that this information may be kept on file by the receiving dialysis unit.

There is limited capacity for DAFB nationally and internationally. Access is dependent on availability. The frequency and length of dialysis sessions may vary from your normal routine and this will need to be considered prior to booking your DAFB. There is no guarantee that you will be allocated haemodialysis treatment in your preferred location or time. As some locations are in greater demand than others, you may have to consider looking at dialysis further away from your initial requested destination.

HSE patients do not have to pay for dialysis treatment in a HSE approved unit in Ireland. It should be noted that units do not provide transport to patients receiving DAFB. This should be discussed prior to travelling at local level to ensure there is no unexpected expense. Patients have to pay for their own travel and accommodation costs. Patients that are planning to go abroad should be aware that there may be different arrangements in place depending on the country you plan to visit. Costs may be substantial and are not reimbursed by the HSE

Blood tests and other health checks may also be required before the DAFB can be confirmed. Additional arrangements are required for dialysis outside of Ireland to ensure patient safety. There may be a cost associated with these tests that the patient could be liable for.

The European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) card allows you to access state-provided healthcare in all European Economic Area (EEA) countries. This may provide some payment towards dialysis depending on the country being visited. The EHIC is available free of charge at the following web site [www.hse.ie/services](http://www.hse.ie/services)

The Irish Kidney Association has three self-catering accommodation locations in Ireland based in Tramore, Co. Waterford, Tralee, Co. Kerry and Killarney, Co. Kerry for peritoneal dialysis, haemodialysis and kidney transplant patients. This can be found at [www.ika.ie](http://www.ika.ie)

There is a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) [FAQ Document.docx](#) information sheet accompanying this policy for patients' staff and units. This will give some details, tips, advice and what steps need to be taken by patients to arrange DAFB. There are also some useful websites where further information, such as how to apply for a European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) can be found.