



GIG
CYMRU
NHS
WALES

Cyd-bwyllgor
Comisiynu
Joint Commissioning
Committee

Appendix 1

Temporary Dialysis Away from Base (DAFB) in adults aged 18 years and above

Commissioning Policy: CP33

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Q: Who is this guidance for?

A: This guidance is for adult patients (18 years and above) who are receiving routine Haemodialysis or Peritoneal Dialysis; living in Wales and registered with a general practice in Wales or living in England and registered with a general practice in Wales.

Q: What is DAFB?

A: Dialysis Away from Base is when a patient wishes to receive dialysis away from their normal dialysis 'Base', which is either at a kidney unit or at home. This can be for recreational (holiday) purpose, travel for work or pleasure and to cover any other occasions that result in a patient needing dialysis from their normal dialysis 'base'.

Q: Can I have DAFB?

A: You must have approval from your clinician before DAFB is agreed.

Q: Can I organise my own DAFB?

A: We advise patients to make use of their 'holiday coordinator' or named nurse when arranging DAFB. For ALL DAFB arrangements taking place within the UK, **Dialysis Freedom CIC**, in partnership with Kidney Care UK, offers practical advice via www.dialysisfreedom.co.uk, info@dialysisfreedom.co.uk or Tel: 01509 808668.

For all DAFB taking place outside of the UK, patients are advised to use **Freedom The Dialysis Holiday Specialists** via www.holidaydialysis.co.uk email: info@holidaydialysis.co.uk or Tel: 01509 815999.

Q: Is it easy to organise DAFB?

A: Whilst it does take some planning for DAFB to take place, your renal team will be able to help you with organising DAFB. There are some useful websites and telephone numbers at the end of this information sheet that will help.

It is best to give as much notice as possible before you plan to go away. This is usually a minimum of 4 weeks if you are within the UK and 3 months if travelling outside the UK. It is advisable to make sure that you have all the relevant travel documents needed for travelling abroad in plenty of time before arranging visits to other countries for example, a valid passport, valid European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) or UK Global Health Insurance Card (GHIC).

In the event of an emergency travel (such as a funeral), where it is not possible to work within minimum timeframes of 4 weeks (UK) and 3 months travelling outside the UK we advise patients to work with their dialysis unit and clinical team as soon as possible.

Q: Will I have to pay for my DAFB?

A: Not all DAFB will be covered by NHS Wales, funding will be dependent upon the country that you are looking to go to. You will need to check before you confirm your booking if there are any additional charges for you. **Approval must be given prior to any booking being made.**

In summary:

Scenario	Pathway	NWJCC Funded	Patient funded
Welsh patient wants DAFB in WALES	Local arrangements between Welsh Dialysis units	YES - Funding would be provided by NWJCC as part of the Long Term Agreements (LTA) contracts with Welsh providers.	No
Welsh Patient wants DAFB in UK (excluding Wales) in a NHS commissioned unit	Dialysis units would arrange between the UK units or through Dialysis Freedom CIC in partnership with Kidney Care UK	YES - Funding would be provided from NWJCC to receiving NHS commissioned unit	No
Welsh Patient wants DAFB in UK (excluding Wales) in a non-NHS commissioned unit (Private unit)		No	Yes
Welsh patient wishes to receive DAFB outside of the UK but within the EU/EEA/Switzerland	Advise to use Freedom The Dialysis Holiday specialists	YES - Funding would only be provided from the NWJCC for dialysis units that are State/Government run dialysis units that accept GHIC/EHIC	NO – for dialysis units that are state/Government run YES Where a country has a percentage

			payment system, which means you may need to pay part of the cost of dialysis session. It is important to check this beforehand. Is not a state/Government provided renal unit.
Welsh patient wishes to receive DAFB outside of the UK a country with a reciprocal agreement with the UK	Advise to use Freedom The Dialysis Holiday specialists	YES – Funding would be provided from the NWJCC for dialysis units that are State/Government run dialysis units In most cases this would be free or at a reduced cost	NO – for dialysis units that are state/Government run YES For dialysis units that are private centres are not included within this agreement
Welsh patient wishes to receive DAFB on a cruise ship	Advise to use a cruise company that specialises in dialysis	YES – Funding would be reimbursed by NWJCC either a) the actual cost of the treatment or (b) the published NHS tariff¹, whichever is lower and subject to the following: treatment must take place on a cruise that remains within, or where the majority of ports of call are within the EU/EEA, Switzerland, or countries that have a reciprocal healthcare agreement with the UK Government.	YES If the total cost of treatment is above the NHS published tariff rate (which may be significantly less than private treatment cost/s)

¹ [NHS England » 2026/27 NHS Payment Scheme](#)

Welsh patient wishes to receive DAFB in countries with no reciprocal agreement with the UK	Advise to use Freedom the dialysis holiday specialists	No	Yes
--	--	-----------	------------

Q: Is there any additional financial support available?

A: Kidney Care UK offers Holiday Grants for patients to help with the cost associated with DAFB, this will not cover the cost of the dialysis. Further information can be found on Kidney Care UK's website. [Kidney Care UK – Get Support; Patient Grants](#)

Q: Will I have to organise and pay for my own transport to and from the temporary unit?

A: For Welsh patients attending a Welsh unit, if you are eligible for the Non-Emergency Patient Transport Service (NEPTS), then you may be entitled to ambulance transportation. However, this will need to be agreed through your local dialysis unit and the Welsh Ambulance Service Renal Hub prior to your DAFB period. This service would be subject to availability. Remember to cancel your transport to your 'base' dialysis unit while you are away.

For any other scenario of DAFB all transport costs will be the responsibility of the patient.

Q: What other things do I need to consider and get in place before I go on holiday?

A: There are several things you will have to get in place before going on holiday or going to another temporary unit under the DAFB.

Clinical and approval	approval funding	Before you embark on organising any DAFB you will need to speak to your clinical team to ensure that they approve your DAFB and approve the unit that you will be attending. Also funding for dialysis will need to be approved by NWJCC prior to DAFB.
Global Healthcare Insurance Card (GHIC) or a valid European Health Insurance Card (EHIC)		These cards are important to ensure that you can access state/Government offered dialysis when visiting countries in the European Economic Area ((EEA) covering countries within the European Union (EU) plus Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway) and Switzerland. Further information which includes a link to apply for UK GHIC can be found here

	https://www.nhs.uk/using-the-nhs/healthcare-abroad/apply-for-a-free-uk-global-health-insurance-card-ghic/
Travel Insurance	It is very important that you have comprehensive travel and medical insurance to cover you whilst you are away from the UK. The potential charges that you would have to pay if you required any additional medical treatment whilst away could easily run into thousands of pounds. It is important to check the small print for any exclusions that may apply for health care abroad that is covered under the insurance policy.

Q: What should I do about medication?

A: It is advisable to plan what medications you will need to cover your stay and take those with you. If travelling by plane, you should consider putting your medications in your hand luggage and check with travel providers what their policies (if any) are on carrying/declaring medications and medical equipment. If you can carry a repeat prescription with you that should provide practical evidence.

Useful advice and information

Kidney Care UK	0808 801 00 00	DAFB Apply for a patient grant from Kidney Care UK
Kidney Care UK travel advice		https://kidneycareuk.org/kidney-disease-information/living-with-kidney-disease/travelling-with-ckd
Dialysis Freedom CIC in partnership with Kidney Care UK (for DAFB within the UK)	01509 808668	www.dialysisfreedom.co.uk info@dialysisfreedom.co.uk
Freedom The Dialysis Holiday specialists (for DAFB outside the UK)	01509 815999	www.holidaydialysis.co.uk email: info@holidaydialysis.co.uk
Welsh Kidney Network		Welsh Kidney Network