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Strategies to Promote Peritoneal Dialysis: Focus on International Cases

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Home dialysis, predominantly peritoneal dialysis in many parts of the world, confers multiple benefits, including better quality of life, lifestyle and treatment satisfaction for patients, and lower financial costs and lesser dependence on trained professionals for health care systems. Moreover, disruptions to health provision during the COVID-19 pandemic, natural and man-made disasters have further highlighted the benefits of peritoneal dialysis, including treatment continuation, better survival and lower infection transmission risks. In addition, with an ageing population and a reduced healthcare workforce, home dialysis provides significant relief on the strain to healthcare resources. Despite the advantages of peritoneal dialysis, its utilization remains low in most countries. Challenges for expanding peritoneal dialysis differ between lower-income countries and high resource settings, posing peculiar obstacles across patients, healthcare professionals, policy and cultural factors. The International Home Dialysis Consortium, spearheaded by the International Society for Peritoneal Dialysis and International Society of Nephrology, represented by key international and regional professional societies and industry partners, seeks to increase home dialysis uptake and improve clinical outcomes through various strategies: (i) standardizing education on peritoneal dialysis and home hemodialysis for clinicians with a focus on reducing dialysis burden for patients and caregivers, (ii) providing education and support for patients and caregivers using technology such as remote patient monitoring where appropriate and feasible to enable involvement in care decisions and choice of treatments, (iii) creating a culture of broad support for home dialysis within medical and kidney care teams, (iv) engaging with institutional and national policy leaders to advocate for provision of resources needed for home dialysis, and (v) developing and implementing locally appropriate methodologies to optimize delivery

of home dialysis in different settings. In addition, members of the International Home Dialysis Consortium have developed a set of manifestos, inviting professional groups to make a public declaration and commit to advocating for the promotion of peritoneal dialysis globally by raising awareness and education, implementing shared decision-making with provision of appropriate and accurate information on home dialysis and pursuing advocacy efforts to facilitate and incentivize home dialysis propagation. Strategically, the International Home Dialysis Consortium also holds public policy forums for home dialysis across different regions at opportunistic congresses and meetings, engaging policy makers, payors and key professional leaders to drive and blueprint home dialysis effort locally.

Keywords: Home Dialysis, Peritoneal Dialysis