

Pets and Peritoneal Dialysis (PD)

Many people on peritoneal dialysis have pets at home. Pets carry bacteria in their mouths and claws that can cause serious infections in peritoneal dialysis patients. Follow the guidelines below to help minimize the risk of infection while enjoying the company of your furry companion at home.

- Keep pets in another room during treatments, especially when you are connecting and disconnecting to the machines. Curious paws and puppy-sharp teeth can find their way to dialysis machine tubing.
- If possible, keep supplies and machine in a different room. Keep the door to that room closed.
- Wash your hands frequently, especially after feeding and cleaning up after your pet. And most importantly, before you connect or disconnect from your dialysis machine.
- Keep pet nails short to avoid scratches. Scratches can spread disease.
- If you have a cat or bird, have someone else in your life clean the litter box or bird cage, so that you avoid exposure to bacteria that could make you sick. Also, make sure the litter box and bird cage are not in the same room where you dialyze.
- Frequently clean furniture and floors to reduce fur and dander.
- Keep your pet healthy with regular visits to the vet.

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