SHAREHD is a Health Foundation-funded programme that aims to support patients receiving haemodialysis (HD) treatment in hospital to be more independent and confident in participating in aspects of their own haemodialysis care.

There is considerable evidence that greater patient engagement and helping people to manage their own health, is associated with better outcomes across a range of medical conditions. Together with our partners, including Kidney Research UK, and a collaborative of 12 dialysis centres in England, we plan to extend the learning from local initiatives and the Yorkshire and Humber Shared Haemodialysis Care programme to build a body of evidence that can support a nationwide change towards better patient choice.

SHAREHD is all about encouraging, educating and supporting hospital based HD patients and giving them the choice to learn components of their own dialysis care. The haemodialysis process is broken down into 14 tasks such as: preparing equipment, measuring weight and blood pressure and self-cannulation. With the support and supervision of healthcare staff, patients are given the opportunity to take on as many of these tasks as they feel comfortable and able to do, at a pace that suits their individual needs.

*Yorkshire & Humber Shared Haemodialysis Care is a network of clinicians, dialysis nurses, patients and carers throughout Yorkshire who, with previous Health Foundation support, have been successfully engaging patients in their own haemodialysis care*
How are we planning to do this?

We intend to create a collaborative network of dialysis units at 12 NHS Trusts. Teams of patients and staff will participate in 2 waves of workshops using quality improvement approaches to test out different ways and means for increasing patient engagement in their dialysis care.

What do patients think about Shared Care?

“I can look after myself, feel more in control and can make better health choices. I want to do more.”

“It makes me feel that I have self worth – I am still important”

“I can just get on with it. It gives me more freedom”

“It helps my self esteem. I understand my fluids and feel confident. Now my blood pressure is down and I am on the transplant list”

Story from a staff member...

“I was initially sceptical when I first heard about shared care but during a study day, I heard at first hand from a patient who described his experiences and how shared care had improved their health and made their illness more bearable. Seeing the difference it makes to a person by being allowed to do as much or as little toward their care is quite astonishing.”

The SHAREHD research study

A parallel research study will enable us to understand the relationship between patient engagement, quality of life, benefits, harms and costs. This work will be linked with the UK Renal Registry and the Think Kidneys-Transforming Participation in Chronic Kidney Disease programme.

Through this process we intend to learn how best to achieve our ambition of facilitating shared haemodialysis care in all Trusts for any patient who wants it.

In parallel, our evaluation partners - The Yorkshire and Humber CLAHRC* - will ensure robust learning from the project as we want to discover the impact that greater patient engagement in HD has on patient outcomes.

* Collaboration for Leadership in Applied Health Research & Care (CLAHRC)