

Water and Waste Concessions for Home Renal Dialysis Policy



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Author:	Manager Water and Waste	Commencement:	17 July 2024

1. PURPOSE

This policy was formulated to ensure the uniform/transparent application of relief from water consumption charges and the provision of an additional waste collection service for those patients undergoing home renal dialysis treatment, within the Mareeba Shire Council.

2. POLICY STATEMENT

This policy will establish specific guidelines for the staff and the public regarding the provision of a water usage concession and increased waste collection to ratepayers and residents required to operate a home renal dialysis machine in their principal place of residence.

3. PRINCIPLES

Mareeba Shire Council provides financial assistance to the property owner to offset water usage costs for users of home renal dialysis equipment. Council can also provide additional waste collection to properties where home dialysis patients reside.

3.1 WATER CONCESSION RATES

The relief is to be applied to the metered property at which the patient resides and if the patient is not the owner, on the understanding that the owner will pass the benefit onto the tenant. Council will seek confirmation from the Cairns Hinterland Hospital and Health Service as to the property address of patients currently dialysing at home and the applicable level of water consumption for this purpose. It is based on the information provided by the Health Service that eligibility for the concession will be applied, is determined.

Once it has been established that the concession is to apply the responsible officer is to grant an allowable consumption of 7.5 kilolitre per billing period in cases where the patient is using a low volume dialysis machine (for example the NxStage® PureFlow™ SL) and 96 kilolitres per billing period in cases where the conventional (Fresenius)high volume dialysis machine is used.

3.2 ADDITIONAL KERBSIDE SERVICE

Council will provide an additional wheelie bin service (for dialysis packaging) for the property at which the patient resides. The free additional wheelie bin will not apply if there is not currently a kerbside service available due to truck accessibility issues (i.e. rural lots) and/or availability of site storage. The wheelie bin needs to be presented kerbside on the usual collection day.

3.3 ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible, the following must occur:

- An application form from Council must be completed by the applicant.
- Confirmation from the Cairns Hinterland Hospital and Health Service advising that treatment is being undertaken by a resident of the property including the commencement date of the treatment and if applicable the date the dialysis ended.
- The application form must be received by Council prior to the end of the discount period of the first concession being applied.

3.4 APPLICATION FOR CONCESSION APPROVED

If the application for water concession is approved the water consumption and consequent charges will be adjusted accordingly and an amended rate notice issued to the owner of the property, subject to the eligibility conditions above.

Those patients requiring additional waste services will need to apply and if approved will be supplied with an extra waste collection each week.

It is the responsibility of the applicant to advise Council if home renal dialysis is no longer undertaken on the premises. However, confirmation will be sought from the Cairns and Hinterland Hospital and Health Service on at least an annual basis that home renal dialysis is continuing. The concession will cease to apply when home renal dialysis treatment is stopped.

3.5 APPLICATION FOR CONCESSION DENIED

In the instance where the application for concession is denied the Water and Waste Department will contact the applicant explaining the reasons for the denied application.

3.6 CALCULATION OF CONCESSION

Consultation with Cairns and Hinterland Hospital and Health Services requesting guidance as to the likely water consumption and waste generated directly attributable to the operation of a home renal dialysis unit. This report is based upon that advice as outlined in the following tables:

3.6.1 Table One – Water Usage

Water Usage Assumptions Based on Fresenius Dialysis Machine	
Frequency of treatment	5-6 treatments per week
Length of each treatment assuming:	5 hours per treatment
- 30 minutes hot rinse before treatment	
- 4 hours treatment	
- 30 minutes disinfection post treatment	

3.6.2 Table Two – Water Usage

Water Usage Assumptions Based on Nx Stage Pureflow Dialysis Machine	
Frequency of treatment	5-6 treatments per week
Length of each treatment assuming:	4 hours per treatment
- 30 minutes Preparation	
- 3 hours treatment	
- 25 minutes Wrap up	

3.6.3 Table One - Calculation

Estimated Water Usage Calculation for Fresenius Dialysis Machine	
2	Litres per minute
300	Minutes per session
600	Litres per session
3,600	Litres per week
3.6	Kilolitres per week
187	Kilolitres per year

3.6.2 Table Two - Calculation

Estimated Water Usage Calculation for Nx Stage Pureflow Dialysis Machine	
150	mL per minute
240	Minutes per session
360	Litres per session
2160	Litres per week
2.16	Kilolitres per week
112.32	Kilolitres per year

3.6.3 Table One – Waste Generated

Estimated Waste generated from Peritoneal patients	
1 empty bag, 1 body fluid filled bag, 1 tube	Generated per session
4-6	Sessions per day
4-6 empty bags, 4-6 body fluid filled bags, 4-6 tubes	Generated waste per day
28-42	Sessions per week
112-252 empty bags, 112-252 body fluid filled bags, 112-252 tubes	Generated waste per week
1456-2184	Sessions per year

4. SCOPE

This policy applies to those ratepayers and residents required to operate a home renal dialysis machine in their principal place of residence.

5. DEFINITIONS

Haemodialysis patient shall mean those persons within the Mareeba local government area, who are registered with Haemodialysis Unit Service, Cairns and Hinterland Health Services, as receiving home renal dialysis treatment.

MSC shall mean Mareeba Shire Council

Peritoneal Dialysis patient shall mean those persons within the Mareeba local government area, who are registered with the Peritoneal Dialysis Unit Service, Cairns and Hinterland Health Services, as receiving peritoneal dialysis treatment at home.

Policy shall mean the 'Waste and Waste Concession for Home Renal Dialysis Policy'.

Property Owner shall mean the person or persons to whom a Certificate of Title for ownership of land/property is held by the Queensland Department of Environment and Resource Management's Titles Registry.

Ratepayer for the purpose of this policy, means the person who is registered as the property owner with the MSC for the purposes of water billing and waste collection.

Tenant shall mean a person who is registered as a tenant by way of a tenancy agreement through a registered property manager or by way of a written agreement with the property owner.

6. REVIEW

It is the responsibility of the Director Corporate and Community Services to monitor the adequacy of this policy and recommend appropriate changes. This policy will be formally reviewed annually or as required by Council.