

Investigating how hemodialysis and the related transport needs impact patients economically and socially

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Patients with chronic kidney disease (CKD) often have to be treated by dialysis. There are different kinds of this treatment such as hemodialysis or peritoneal dialysis. Patients who receive hemodialysis generally have to visit a specialized centre usually several times a week. However, not everybody lives near such a centre for hemodialysis. For many the visit to such a centre is therefore associated with quite some travel. The cost for this necessary travel add up and are usually not covered by the health insurance. A patient requiring hemodialysis is thus confronted with a significant economic burden.

The objective of this study is to explore the impact on patients and their families associated with this financial burden caused by the need to travel to a dialysis centre.

As part of the project we will therefore conduct interviews with patients and their families. In these interviews, the participants will report on the consequences they face due to the costly travel to hemodialysis centres. In addition, a national survey among patients will be conducted. The project will establish a sound base to describe the current situation of these patients.