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# Benefits & Barriers of Doing PD in Rural/ Remote Settings in Northern Health

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# Outline of Presentation

Geographic and Demographics of Northern Health

Benefits of doing PD in Rural/ Remote communities

Barriers of doing PD in Rural/ Remote communities

Importance of Emergency Preparedness





# Benefits of doing PD

- One of the biggest benefits of doing PD is they do not have to relocate to one of these communities or commute sometimes up to 4 hours each way in good weather conditions
- Empowers people to manage their chronic condition
- Creates a greater sense of independence and control over their medical condition and treatment

# Barriers of PD in Rural/ Remote Communities

- Community Isolation
- Loss of Power –lots of our remote communities rely on back up generators that are often unreliable
- Inadequate housing options –lack of space or sanitation
- Finances to come for training

- We get very little OR booking time committed to our renal program so getting catheters inserted can be a real challenge
- Very few staff trained to do PD in Northern Health so training wait times can be quite long
- The PD assist program will not roll out in Northern Health until September, so people must be able to do their PD independently or have family willing to help



# Importance of Emergency Preparedness in Rural/ Remote Communities

- Natural Disasters –Major floods and road washouts where it can be difficult to impossible to get supplies delivered
- Disasters often strike quickly, and without warning

# Kitimat, BC





# Terrace, BC



# Importance of Emergency Preparedness in Rural/ Remote Communities

- People on dialysis are at risk because they need power and water for their treatment
- Telephones may not work
- They may not be able to use roads and bridges, emergency rooms will be busy and priority will be given to people who are injured

# Dawson Creek, BC



# Fort St John, BC



# Taylor, BC





# Emergency Preparedness

- As you can see sometimes supplies will be difficult or impossible to deliver
- Ensure our PD people are aware to restrict fluids and eat appropriately if unable to get supplies for dialysis
- Be prepared to evacuate with supplies with little or no notice

# Emergency Preparedness

- If people are doing the cyclor it is important that they have a twin bag supply they can use when there is no power
- Ensure patients have a copy of the Emergency Preparedness guide for PD patients in their survival kit.