

# SUPPORTING BC HOME HEMODIALYSIS PATIENTS TRAVELLING WITH THE NXSTAGE SYSTEM



## Eligibility

Patients who are registered as a Home Hemodialysis patient in the BCPRA PROMIS system and use the NxStage system for home dialysis are eligible to travel. The patient must be able to accept the responsibilities that are documented in this document and the patient handout.

## Training

Prior to travel, the patient must be trained on the NxStage Express Fluid Warmer and pre mixed dialysate bags. The patient must safely demonstrate machine set-up, and understand travel expectations. At time of training, the patient should receive a copy of the [Home Hemodialysis and Travelling for Patients Living in BC Who Want to Travel \(In or Outside BC\)](#) document. See [Appendix A](#). Please review expectations with the patient prior to travel arrangements. A copy of this document has been placed in the HHDE Dropbox.

## Medically Stable for Travel

Check with the most responsible nephrologist to ensure the patient is safe to travel. Patients must be medically stable on home hemodialysis and have a functioning vascular access.

## Insurance Requirements for NxStage Machine

If the patient is travelling in North America, PHSa insurance will cover the NxStage machine in most cases, in the event of loss, damage or theft assuming the outlined safety precautions have been satisfied. Please refer to the [BCPRA HHD Travel Policy, Appendix](#)

[B](#). A copy of the Travel Policy is located in the HHDE Dropbox.

Patients are responsible for the protection of their NxStage machine, and are required to adhere to the following conditions:

1. Patients traveling with the NxStage machine must obtain the required protective case. Hard shell case is required for air travel and absolutely all instances where a carrier operator will be handling the machine; soft case may be used for all other modes of travel. The patient may also use the original cardboard box, with foam inserts for ground travel.
2. If traveling by train, bus, airplane, or other public transportation, the patient must ensure that carrier operators are aware of the medical device and that precautions are taken to protect it from theft.
3. If traveling, the machine must not be left unattended for any length of time.

If the patient is travelling outside of North America, it is the responsibility of the patient to have property/liability insurance to cover loss, damage or theft of the machine while on travels. **A copy of the insurance plan must be given to the HHD educator to be kept on file.**

## Prior to Travel

Please advise patients to avoid booking flights or hotels, until the following steps are taken.

Instruct patients that to be eligible for coverage of shipping costs, communication with the

# SUPPORTING BC HOME HEMODIALYSIS PATIENTS TRAVELLING WITH THE NXSTAGE SYSTEM



home hemodialysis educator is required in the vacation planning stages.

Patients must provide destination, dates of travel, mode of transportation to the HHDE. The Nxstage travel form must be submitted by the HHDE.

- At least 30 days' notice prior to the requested delivery date for travel in Canada
- At least 60 days' notice prior to the requested delivery date for international travel, cruises and international island excursions.

After details of travel have been discussed and the patient has been deemed medically stable for travel, please fax NxStage Form 816 to 1-978-687-4809 attention Sandie Halleren. This form can be found in the HHDE Dropbox.

As of May 18, 2018, NxStage will support shipping of supplies to the following countries. **Please note this list is subject to change and will require confirmation at the time of booking.**

- Canada- Alberta, BC, Manitoba, Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, some parts of Ontario, Saskatchewan and Quebec
- United States (see below for Hawaii and Alaska)
- United Kingdom
- Northern Ireland
- Italy
- France
- Sweden
- Netherlands
- Belgium
- Finland
- Denmark
- Norway
- Spain
- ❖ Alaska and Hawaii will be at a quoted cost. Requires 60 days for planning.

## Caribbean Islands

Will be at quoted cost (not all islands supported-discuss with NxStage)

## Cruises

- Cruises leaving Vancouver are considered domestic cruise ships
- International Cruises require 60 days' notice for travel

## Countries not supported:

- Mexico
- Cuba
- Some South American countries- check

# SUPPORTING BC HOME HEMODIALYSIS PATIENTS TRAVELLING WITH THE NXSTAGE SYSTEM



with NxStage

## All other countries

- Discuss with NxStage the possibility of travel to countries not listed above. Please note: these arrangements may require more than 60 days' notice.

## Renting a NxStage Machine

At this time, BCPRA does **NOT** support renting NxStage machines. BCPRA will not reimburse costs related to renting a NxStage machine. If a patient chooses to rent a machine, all costs are the responsibility of the patient. NxStage has been informed to contact the Home Team if a patient has inquired about renting.

## BCPRA Travel Coverage

Each patient is required to cover the costs of travelling with their NxStage machine. BCPRA will cover the costs of shipping dialysate bags, cartridges, drain lines, and dialyzers if within the NxStage standard costing prices for domestic and US travel. All international island and cruise travel will require a quote for shipping costs and will be forwarded from NxStage to BCPRA for approval. BCPRA will cover the cost of shipping the previous mentioned supplies for a maximum of 4 weeks /year per patient. Depending on the patient's destination and mode of travel, supplies may be shipped directly to the destination or to the patient's home.

## Normal Saline Options for Patients Traveling Abroad

In most cases, patients will be required to take normal saline to their destination, with the exception of Italy, Belgium, Norway, Sweden,

Finland, Denmark and the Netherlands.

## Normal Saline

NxStage will supply Normal Saline to Canadian destinations only. Please refer to form 816.

## Normal Saline Options For US Travel

For patients travelling within the US, there are two options:

1. Patients can transport their own normal saline to their destination (shipping costs to be covered by the patient).
2. Patients can pre purchase normal saline from Walmart- Specialty Pharmacy. Shipping is free to anywhere in the US. Patients can pre purchase normal saline and have it delivered to their destination. Patients will need to purchase the normal saline using a credit card, and can be reimbursed by the BCPRA if a receipt is obtained. Please give a copy of the BCPRA reimbursement form to your patient.

Specialty Pharmacy form can be downloaded at:

<https://www.walmart.com/cp/Specialty-Pharmacy/1078924>

BCPRA reimbursement form can be downloaded at:

<http://www.bcrenalagency.ca/health-professionals/forms>

# SUPPORTING BC HOME HEMODIALYSIS PATIENTS TRAVELLING WITH THE NXSTAGE SYSTEM

## Dialysis Supplies Required for Travel

Patients will be required to take all ancillary supplies with them on their trip. The shipping of these supplies will be the responsibility of the patient. Supplies required for dialysis may include:

- Fistula needles
- Syringes
- Tape
- Gauze
- Antiseptic Wipes
- Small Sharps Disposal- can purchase at drug store- retails for approx. \$4.99.
- Disposable drapes
- Heparin
- Needles
- BP cuff
- Scale
- CVC supplies- syringes, prefilled NS, 4% Citrate Locking Solution, Dressings
- Other patient specific dialysis supplies

## Travel Support Letter

A travel letter is to be given to all patients travelling via air. A copy of [Travel Letter re: Transport of Medical Equipment and Medicines](#) can be found in [Appendix C](#). A copy of this letter is located in the HHDE Dropbox.

## Home Hemodialysis Patient Agreement (NxStage)

The patient agreement has been amended to reflect travel with the NxStage machine.

Please ensure that your patient has signed the revised version and has a copy of this agreement prior to travelling. A suggestion would be to include a copy of the agreement with a travel package for the patient. A copy of the patient agreement is located in the HHDE Dropbox.

## Technical Support for Patients Travelling in Canada

NxStage will provide technical support 24 hours a day for patients travelling within Canada. If a machine event issue occurs in Canada, a new cyclor can be delivered to the patient's destination within a 150km radius of NxStage shipping locations. If the patient is 150km away, a 24 hour machine delivery is not guaranteed. Discuss with NxStage prior to arranging travel.

## Technical Support for Patients Travelling to the US or Other Countries

NxStage provides technical support for machine issues encountered during travel abroad. If the technical support team feels that the issue cannot be resolved, and the machine is unable to provide dialysis treatment, the patient will be expected to go to the closest emergency department to arrange for dialysis. NxStage will not provide a 24 hour swap time to travel destinations outside of Canada.

**NxStage does not support cyclor swaps outside of Canada.**

If the patient receives dialysis while travelling abroad, the patient will need to cover the costs for this. The cost can be reimbursed by sending receipts within 90 days to Health BC. For more information about this process,

# SUPPORTING BC HOME HEMODIALYSIS PATIENTS TRAVELLING WITH THE NXSTAGE SYSTEM



please ask the patient refer to “Leaving BC” brochure on the Health Insurance BC website. The reimbursement form can be found online: [www.health.gov.bc.ca/exforms/msp/2814fil.pdf](http://www.health.gov.bc.ca/exforms/msp/2814fil.pdf). Please inform your patient it may take at least 2 to 3 months to receive a refund for the patient’s dialysis expense.

## Health Insurance

It is strongly recommended that the patient purchase medical travel insurance. The insurance plan should include medical evacuation.

## RV Travel

For RV travel, the patient must use a soft travel case, or shipping boxes with inserts, to provide extra protection from damage while traveling. Ensure that it is secure during travel.

**Note:** NxStage has not tested the use of generators to supply power to the Cyclor and therefore cannot be recommend, approve, or support the use of these power devices. The application and use of any back up power devices is at the risk of the user and the patient.

The Cyclor input power requirements for RV travel are:

- Proper grounding
- Input voltage 100-120/ 230 VAC
- Auto ranging 50/60 Hz Input
- Power 600 VA (200 VA for Cyclor; 400 VA for AC outlet)

**Note:** Ensure that the RV holding tank can hold 30-60 Litres of waste.

## Car Travel

The NxStage Cyclor fits in the trunk of most cars or can be buckled into the back seat. The soft travel case or NxStage packing box, with inserts, can be used for transport. Please refer to the patient agreement.

## Cruise Ship Travel

NxStage Form 816 must be completed 60 days prior to cruise ship travel in order to have supplies delivered to a cruise line. Most port authorities will not allow any deliveries into the port of departure without prior approval and pre-clearance of delivery drivers. Therefore, NxStage must have this information at least 60 days prior to your sailing date. If any details change such as dates, room or booking numbers, etc, notify NxStage Customer Service immediately. Failure to do so may result in lost supplies or a non-delivery.

- Patient is responsible for confirming that equipment and supplies are onboard the ship prior to disembarkation.
- Additional charges will apply for specific delivery time frames, weekend, or holiday deliveries.

## Air Travel Domestic

The hard travel case must be used when travelling by air. Please indicate to the airline that all medical equipment must be on the same flight as the patient. Please use the NxStage Medical Stickers to apply to all medical supplies.

Canadian Air Transport Security Authority (CATSA) provides information to help with planning trips with medical equipment.

# SUPPORTING BC HOME HEMODIALYSIS PATIENTS TRAVELLING WITH THE NXSTAGE SYSTEM



For more information, read “Planning your trip” and “Tips for passengers with medically necessary equipment”. These documents are located on the CATSA website: <http://www.catsa.gc.ca/special-needs#planning>

CATSA 1-888-294-2202

Air Canada Medical Information  
1-800-667-4732

WestJet  
1-866-693-7853  
<https://www.westjet.com/en-ca/travel-info/special-needs/devices>

Patients should call the airline prior to departure to discuss details of medical equipment and weight restrictions.

## Air Travel U.S.

The hard travel case must be used when travelling by air. All medical equipment must travel on the same flight as the patient. Please use the NxStage Medical Stickers provided to apply to all medical supplies

Department of Transport (U.S.)  
1-866-289-9673

## US Transportation Guidance on the Transport of Portable Dialysis Machines

No airline can refuse the travel with a medical assistive device.

The U.S. Dep’t of Transport has stated that:

1. **Your machine is an “assistive device”** (Section 382.3).
2. **The airline must let you bring your machine on the plane or check it.**

(382.121(a)).

3. **Your machine does not count toward a carry-on bag limit** (382.121(b)).
4. **If you pre-board and check your machine, it takes priority over other bags if space is tight** (382.123(a)).
5. **The airline cannot charge you a fee for your machine in the cabin or as checked luggage** (382.31(a)).
6. **Your machine must be portable (~100 lbs. or less with the case)** (382.1(c)).
7. **If the airline loses or harms your machine in the US, baggage liability limits do not apply.** They must pay for your machine based on its price (382.31). NOTE: Out of the US, the limit is \$1,685. Check to see if your homeowner’s insurance would pay if your machine is lost or damaged, or if the clinic covers this.
8. **The airline must let you bring your medicines, syringes, and dialysate** (382.2), **but only a 1-2 day supply of fluids.** Any more and you will need to ship it.

## Machine and Travel Case Specifications

### Cycler

<b>Size</b>	<b>15”Wx 18”H X D15”D</b>
Weight	75 lbs

### Soft Travel Case

<b>Size</b>	<b>20”W x 20”H x16”D</b>
Weight (Empty)	Approx. 5 lbs
Weight with Cycler	Approx. 80 lbs



# SUPPORTING BC HOME HEMODIALYSIS PATIENTS TRAVELLING WITH THE NXSTAGE SYSTEM



## Hard Travel Case

Size	23"W x 20"H x 19.5"D
Weight (Empty)	Approx. 25lbs
Weight with Cyclor	Approx. 99lbs

## Cyclor Box with Inserts

NxStage shipping boxes, with foam inserts, are acceptable for moving/ shipping the cyclor for all ground travel.

Size	W 25" x H 21" x D 22"
Weight (Empty)	5 lbs
Weight with Cyclor	80 lbs

## Warmer

The NxStage warmer weighs 4.4 lbs / 2 kilos. The warmer will not fit in the hard or soft travel case. It is recommended that a patient place the warmer in a suitcase, between soft articles of clothing, to protect the warmer.

## Drains

Patients must determine the drain location of their desired destination. All drain lines are 6.1 meters in length.

## Electrical Converters

Patients must purchase an electrical converter for international travel. Patients can use this website to determine which adaptor is required for the destination country: <http://www.worldstandards.eu/electricity/plugs-and-sockets/>

The power cord for the cyclor is 12 feet long.

## Unused Supplies

All unused supplies will need to be transported home by the patient. NxStage will not pick up unused supplies.

## Telephone Advice to Patients Travelling

Please refer to the CRNBC Telehealth Practice Standards for more information on providing support to patients while travelling.

<https://www.crnbc.ca/Standards/PracticeStandards/Lists/GeneralResources/415TelehealthPracStd.pdf>

## Please note:

If the patient is out of the country for a longer period of time (i.e. more than three months), then it is considered that the nurse is not as familiar with the patient's care and needs, and it would not be in the patient's best interests to provide support. The patient would need to go to the closest emergency room for care.

## Home Hemodialysis and Travelling



### For Patients Living in BC Who Want to Travel (In or Outside BC)

If you are a home hemodialysis patient using the NxStage machine, it is possible to travel. This is a step-by-step guide to help you plan your dialysis care away from home.

#### Please plan your travel well in advance.

You are required to give at least 30 days' notice for travel within Canada and 60 days' notice for international, cruise, and island destinations. NxStage will ship to destinations outlined in their travel plan.

**DO NOT BOOK YOUR TRAVEL UNTIL YOU HAVE COMMUNICATED WITH YOUR HOME HEMODIALYSIS EDUCATOR WELL IN ADVANCE OF THESE LEAD TIMES.**

### 1. Check with your kidney doctor to make sure you are fit to travel.

Generally this means that:

- You are medically stable on home hemodialysis.
- You have a functioning fistula, graft or permanent central line catheter with stable blood flows. Temporary accesses are not accepted.

### 2. Once you decide where you want to go, communicate with your home hemodialysis educator.

You will need to provide information about your travel destination and dates of travel. The NxStage travel document will be completed and faxed to NxStage customer service. NxStage will confirm with you if they provide shipping to your destination.

### 3. Arrange your travel plans using the following information in this document.

#### 4. For all travel:

- You will be required to take your Nxstage machine on your travels. BCPRA will not cover the costs of renting a NxStage machine
- PHSA has property insurance to cover Nxstage machines situated in or while in transit in Canada or the USA. In most cases PHSA will provide insurance coverage if the machine is damaged or lost, however, the following conditions (# 4, 5, and 6) at the very least must be met. *Patients must abide by all safety*



## Home Hemodialysis and Travelling



- *precautions to protect the NxStage home hemodialysis machine from loss or damage, including theft.*
- If you are travelling outside of North America, you must acquire and show proof of property/liability insurance to cover the Nxstage machine while travelling. Please provide a copy with the HHD Educator.
- Travel cases and warming units will be available at your home hemodialysis training unit. Please communicate with your HHD educator to book this equipment. Cover your machine with plastic garbage bag prior to placing in the cases.
- NxStage will arrange shipping of dialysate bags, drain lines, cartridges and dialyzers. Depending on your destination, these supplies will be shipped directly to your destination or to your home. BCPRA will cover the costs of shipping these supplies up to 4 weeks/year.
- Keep a packing list. You will need to transport all ancillary supplies with you. Your Home Hemodialysis educator will provide you with a travel letter for airport staff explaining the purpose of the supplies.
- Ensure there is proper electrical grounding at your destination for the cyclor power requirements: Input voltage 100-120/ 230 VAC; Auto ranging 50/60 Hz Input; Power 600 VA (200 VA for Cyclor; 400 VA for AC outlet). NxStage has not tested the use of generators to supply power to the Cyclor and therefore cannot recommend,

approve, or support the use of these power devices. The application and use of any backup power device is at the risk of the user and patient.

- You are responsible for the safe disposal of all sharps while travelling. Please use a hard plastic puncture proof container if necessary.
- 5. For air, bus or train travel within or outside of Canada:**
- You will need a hard travel case to transport your Nxstage machine. You can borrow a travel case from your home hemodialysis unit (subject to availability). Please contact your Home Hemodialysis Educator to book this.
  - To protect the machine while in the hard case, please wrap in a garbage bag and place in the case
  - Make advance arrangements with your travel carrier to ensure that they are aware you will be travelling with medical equipment and that precautions are taken to protect it from theft. Due to weight and size, the NxStage machine will need to be checked luggage. With a note from a doctor and prior notice, some air carriers will waive the checked bag fee for one piece of medical equipment.
- 6. For travel via car or RV within Canada:**
- You will need a soft travel case to transport your NxStage machine. You can borrow a travel case from your home hemodialysis unit, subject to availability. Please contact your HHD educator to

## Home Hemodialysis and Travelling



- book this. You may also use the original NxStage box, with foam inserts, to travel via car or RV.
- If traveling by car, the machine must not be left in the car unattended for any length of time.
- The Nxstage machine must be kept in a safe location to protect it from theft.

**7. It is strongly recommended that you buy travel health insurance.** Make sure your insurance covers medical evacuation. The financial costs may be extremely high if you have a medical emergency that requires health care outside of BC or if you need to be transported back home.

**8. If you are travelling outside of BC, your nephrologist is not licensed to provide any clinical support to you.** You are responsible to seek appropriate medical support as necessary. You will need information about your health, including your medical records and recent lab reports, insurance information and a list of the medications you take. Secure your medical information in your carry-on luggage.

**9. Keep a current medication list with you and all the medication you will need with you.** Talk to your pharmacy to make sure you will have enough medication while you travel. Ensure syringes are protected with needle guards and medications are labelled with prescription information.

- Ask your home dialysis unit to give you a travel

letter so you can go through security with your syringes and medications

**10. Canadian Air Transport Security Authority (CATSA) provides information to help with planning trips with medical equipment.**

- For more information, read “Planning your trip” and “Tips for passengers with medically necessary equipment”. These documents are located on the CATSA website: <http://www.catsa.gc.ca/special-needs#planning>

**Tips for traveling with NxStage machine and related supplies**

1. It is recommended to carry a travel letter confirming that you are on dialysis and use supplies and medications that you are bringing in your carry-on luggage. This letter is not absolutely required in Canada, but would likely be needed for international travel.
2. Be prepared to present these items to officials when going through security screening as they are required to examine them.
3. Ask the hotel if they will waive the fee for accepting and storing boxes with medical supplies.
4. Ask the hotel ahead of time for a bathroom scale. Many have them, so you don't have to take one with you.

## Home Hemodialysis and Travelling



5. **If you have dietary restrictions, remember that many airlines do not provide meals, and airport shops and restaurants may not have healthy food options.** When making your airline reservation, be sure to ask if the airline has special meals, such as diabetic, vegetarian or low fat options. It is advisable to bring your own diet-appropriate food and snacks for travel delays and long trips.
6. Call NxStage for packing checklist 1-866-697-8243
7. Dialyze just before you leave if possible so there is more time to recover from any delays on your trip. (late supply delivery, delayed flights etc.)

### Normal Saline Options for Patients Traveling Abroad

In most cases, you will be required to take normal saline to their destination, with the exception of Italy, Belgium, Norway, Sweden, Finland, Denmark and the Netherlands.

#### Normal Saline

NxStage will supply Normal Saline to Canadian destinations only.

#### Normal Saline Options for US Travel

If you are travelling within the US, there are two options:

1. You can transport their own normal saline to their destination (shipping costs to be covered by you).

2. You can pre purchase normal saline from Walmart- Specialty Pharmacy. Shipping is free to anywhere in the US. You can pre purchase normal saline and have it delivered to their destination. You will need to purchase the normal saline using a credit card, and can be reimbursed by the BCPRA if a receipt is obtained. Your HHD Educator can give you a copy of the BCPRA reimbursement form. Specialty Pharmacy form can be downloaded at:

<https://www.walmart.com/cp/Specialty-Pharmacy/1078924>

BCPRA reimbursement form can be downloaded at:

<http://www.bcrenalagency.ca/health-professionals/forms>

### Dialysis Supplies Required for Travel

You will be required to take all ancillary supplies with you on your trip. The shipping of these supplies will be your responsibility .

Supplies required for dialysis may include:

- Fistula needles
- Syringes
- Tape
- Gauze
- Antiseptic Wipes
- Small Sharps Disposal- can purchase at drug store- retails for approx. \$4.99.
- Disposable drapes
- Heparin
- Needles
- BP cuff
- Scale
- CVC supplies- syringes, prefilled NS, 4% Citrate Locking Solution, Dressings
- Other patient specific dialysis supplies

## Home Hemodialysis and Travelling



### Miscellaneous Notes/Info

Air Canada Medical Info  
1-800-667-4732  
CATSA 1-888-294-2202

Department of Transport (U.S.)  
1-866-289-9673

The U.S. Dep't of Transport has stated that:

- 1. Your machine is an “assistive device”** (Section 382.3).
- 2. The airline must let you bring your machine on the plane or check it.** (382.121(a)).
- 3. Your machine does not count toward a carry-on bag limit** (382.121(b)).
- 4. If you pre-board and check your machine, it takes priority over other bags if space is tight** (382.123(a)).
- 5. The airline cannot charge you a fee for your machine in the cabin or as checked luggage** (382.31(a)).
- 6. Your machine must be portable (~100 lbs. or less with the case)** (382.1(c)).
- 7. If the airline loses or harms your machine in the US, baggage liability limits do not apply.** They must pay for your machine based on its price (382.31).  
NOTE: Out of the US, the limit is \$1,685.  
Check to see if your homeowner's insurance would pay if your machine is lost or damaged, or if the clinic covers this.
- 8. The airline must let you bring your medicines, syringes, and dialysate** (382.2), **but only a 1-2 day supply of fluids.** Any more and you will need to ship it.

## HOME HEMODIALYSIS TRAVEL POLICY



### 1. BACKGROUND

The BCPRA provides extensive coverage to British Columbia residents with kidney disease for renal care related supplies as well as for medications listed on the BCPRA formulary. Infrequently, a Home Hemodialysis (HHD) patient using the NxStage system will choose to travel with their NxStage machine in the province, or outside of the province or country. An example would be a BC resident HHD patient who wishes to travel within or outside of BC who will need to transport the machine either by car, RV, train, bus or airplane.

### 2. PURPOSE

To ensure current residents of BC registered as a Home Hemodialysis patient receive clear instructions about their responsibilities when traveling away from their residence, including international travel.

This policy does not apply to patients who have permanently moved to another province or country.

### 3. SCOPE

This policy provides HHD travel information to all members of the BCPRA network including nephrologists and staff of each health authority renal program where the patient is receiving home hemodialysis care. This policy applies to any BC resident registered as a Home Hemodialysis patient in the BCPRA PROMIS system and uses the NxStage machine system while traveling. The patient must be aware of the following responsibilities below and as outlined in Appendix A. The patient must sign the Home

Hemodialysis patient agreement for NxStage patients prior to any travel.

### 4. INFORMATION TO BE SHARED WITH PATIENTS

If the patient is travelling in North America, in most cases PHSA will provide insurance coverage if the machine is damaged. However, the following conditions at the very least must be met. Patients must abide by all safety precautions to protect the NxStage home hemodialysis machine from loss or damage, including theft. They are required to adhere to the following conditions:

**4.1** Patients traveling with the NxStage machine must obtain the required protective case or use the original box with foam inserts. The hard shell case is required for air travel and all instances where a carrier operator will handle the machine; the soft case may be used for all other modes of travel.

**4.2** If traveling by train, bus, airplane, or other public transportation, the patient must ensure that carrier operators are aware of the medical device and that precautions are taken to protect it from theft.

**4.3** The machine must not be left unattended for any length of time during travel (ie left in a car, or the airport).

**4.4** The information regarding this policy and the eligibility criteria must be verbally communicated to the patient or the patient's guardian and documented, using the "Home Hemodialysis and Travelling" handout.

## HOME HEMODIALYSIS TRAVEL POLICY



The patient, or the patient's guardian must sign the HHD patient agreement (Nxstage) outlining their responsibilities. The signed agreement will be uploaded and stored in the patient's PROMIS record or kept in the patient chart.

**4.5** BCPRA will not be responsible for costs related to renting a NxStage machine. Each patient is required to cover the costs of travelling with their NxStage machine. BCPRA will cover the costs of shipping dialysate bags, cartridges, drain lines and dialyzers if within NxStage standard costing prices for domestic and US travel. All international, international island and cruise travel will require a quote for shipping costs and will be forwarded from NxStage to BCPRA for approval. BCPRA will cover the cost of shipping the previous mentioned supplies for a maximum of 4 weeks/year per patient.

**4.6** NxStage provides a customer service phone line for machine issues encountered during travel time. NxStage will support cyler swaps to any Canadian travel destination within 150 km of a Nxstage shipping destination. NxStage does not support cyler swaps outside of Canada or to international island destinations. For a list of countries in which Nxstage will support shipping supplies, please contact Nxstage travel department.

### 5. TRAVEL OUTSIDE OF NORTH AMERICA

If the patient is travelling outside of North America, it is the responsibility of the patient to obtain property/liability insurance for the machine to cover such travel. A proof of insurance is to be provided to the HHD educator to be kept on file.

## APPENDIX A: RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PATIENT, MEDICAL SERVICE PROVIDERS AND NXSTAGE



### Responsibilities of the Patient

- Check with nephrologist to ensure suitability for travel. Generally this means the patient is medically stable on home hemodialysis and fistula, graft or permanent central line catheter is functional.
- Communicate with home hemodialysis educator and provide information necessary on the NxStage travel form, including: destination, dates of travel, mode of travel.
  - Provide at least 30 days' notice for travel in Canada
  - Provide at least 60 days' notice for international travel, cruises and international island excursions.
- Organize travel arrangements. Patient must advise the airline that they are traveling with the NxStage machine as medical equipment. Patient is required to travel with NxStage machine. Due to weight, the machine will need to be checked luggage. With note from a doctor and prior notice, Air Canada and Westjet will waive checked bag fee for one piece of medical equipment.
- Obtain property/liability insurance for the NxStage machine for travel outside of North America. A copy of the insurance will be kept on file in the patient chart.
- Coordinate transportation of the machine and ancillary supplies. Keep a packing list. The patient must cover the costs of transporting Nxstage machine, warming unit and ancillary supplies including Heparin, prefilled saline syringes,

syringes, needles, gauze, tape, masks, sharps container, cleaning solution, BP cuff, paper drapes or towels, tegos (Central venous catheter-CVC), citrate 4% locking solution (CVC), and dressings (CVC).

- Obtain the required travel protective case. Hard shell case is required for air travel and all instances where a carrier operator will handle the machine; soft case may be used for all other modes of travel. Both can be borrowed at local HHD training unit subject to availability.
- If traveling by train, bus, airplane, or other public transportation, ensure that carrier operators are aware of the medical device and that precautions are taken to protect it from theft.
- The machine must not be left unattended for any length of time.
- Keep a copy of the patient travel letter during travels.
- Bring home any unused supplies.
- Manage medications; ensure there is adequate supply and carry all medication on their person. Ensure syringes are protected with needle guards and medications are labelled with prescription information; otherwise security will not allow them to be brought on board.
- Cover the costs of normal saline shipping if not available by NxStage.
- Ensure there is proper electrical grounding for the cyclor power requirements: Input voltage 100-120/ 230 VAC; Auto ranging 50/60 Hz Input; Power



## APPENDIX A: RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PATIENT, MEDICAL SERVICE PROVIDERS AND NXSTAGE



- 600 VA (200 VA for Cyclor; 400 VA for AC outlet). Bring a European adapter if necessary.
- NxStage has not tested the use of generators to supply power to the Cyclor and therefore cannot recommend, approve, or support the use of these power devices. The application and use of any backup power device is at the risk of the user and patient.
- Be prepared and take information about traveling with a portable device. Box up and mail additional medical supplies ahead of time or pack all supplies and medications in carry-on luggage.
- If travelling outside of BC, the patient's nephrologist is not licensed to provide any support. The patient is responsible to seek appropriate medical support as necessary. Carry information about health, including medical records and recent lab reports, insurance information and a list of medications. Pack medical information in carry-on luggage. Be aware of the nearest emergency department located at destination.
- It is strongly recommended that patients buy travel health insurance. Ensure insurance covers medical evacuation. If a medical emergency occurs and health care outside of BC is required, or if evacuation/return transportation to BC is required, the financial costs may be extremely high.

### Responsibilities of BCPRA, the patient's nephrologist and the HHD team

- Home hemodialysis educator will contact NxStage and fill out the necessary forms for travel; they will confirm with patient once forms are completed.
- Nephrologist and HHD team to communicate with patient — ensure patient is medically stable and fistula, graft or CVC is fully functional.
- HHD educator to review "Handout for HHD patients wanting to travel". Ensure all insurance safety requirements are reviewed and understood.
- BCPRA will cover the costs of shipping cartridges, premixed bagged dialysate, drain lines, warmer disposables if within quoted costs or standard shipping prices as per contract. Saline (1 liter bags) are available for shipping only in those areas in Canada which use the NxStage system\*
- BCPRA will cover the cost of the travel case. Hard cases are designated for all travel in which a third party will handle the machine (air, rail, bus, cruise) and soft cases for all other travel.
- Designated HHD programs will store hard and soft cases for patient use.

## APPENDIX A: RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PATIENT, MEDICAL SERVICE PROVIDERS AND NXSTAGE

### Responsibilities of NxStage

- Process NxStage travel form in a timely fashion.
- NxStage Customer service representative will communicate with patient and coordinate the shipping of supplies to travel destination(s), including bags, solutions, dialyzers, cartridges, drain lines, warmer disposables [and normal saline if possible].
- Communicate to BCPRA all shipping quotes outside of standard shipping freight charges for approval.
- Send shipping expense invoice to BCPRA Finance.
- NxStage will ship to destinations as per the NxStage travel policy.
- As of March 29, 2017, NxStage will ship supplies and normal saline to Manitoba, British Columbia, Ontario, and Newfoundland within 150 km of current courier locations.
- As of March 29, 2017, NxStage will ship cartridges, drain lines, dialyzers, dialysate bags and tubing to US (including Hawaii and Alaska), United Kingdom (Northern Ireland, Wales, Scotland, England), Netherlands, Sweden, Belgium, Finland, Denmark, Norway, Spain, Australia, New Zealand, Italy, and France, Singapore, Japan, Philippines.
- As of March 29, 2017, NxStage does not support shipping to Mexico, Greece, India, China.

## Travel Letter



Date:

**Re: Transport of Medical equipment and Medicines**

To whom it may concern:

\_\_\_\_\_  
(patient name)

is currently a patient in my care and receiving Home Hemodialysis treatment, a life sustaining therapy for kidney disease. Therapy consists of hemodialysis treatments several times a week using the NxStage home hemodialysis machine. This patient is travelling and will therefore be carrying one or more of the following items:

- **NxStage dialysis machine with hard case (checked luggage)  
(23"W x 20"H x 19.5"D WEIGHT (WITH CYCLER) Approx. 99 pounds)**
- **Express Fluid Warmer Heating unit (checked luggage)4.4 pounds**
- **Normal saline solution**
- **Heparin, needles, syringes.**
- **Gauze, tape, gloves, alcohol and disinfectant swabs**
- **Scale**
- **Biohazard container for waste disposal**
- **Blood pressure monitor**
- **Medications (injectables and oral)**

These supplies should be treated like prescription medications.

It should be noted that one or more of these medicines are affected by extreme temperatures and should be included in carry-on luggage. Please allow this patient to pass through security to board his/her flight with these medications and supplies.

A current list of medications is attached.

Respectfully,

\_\_\_\_\_  
Nephrologist's signature and name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Nephrologist's telephone number