

*Deputy Premier
Office of the Minister
MLA, Edmonton-Glenora*

AR 157666

March 15, 2019

Barry Morishita
President
Alberta Urban Municipalities Association
300 - 8616 51 Avenue
Edmonton AB T6E 6E6

Dear Barry Morishita:

Thank you for your letter regarding the additional cost of utilities for patients' using home hemodialysis treatments. I understand a diagnosis of kidney failure has many challenges, and I recognize that home hemodialysis can provide patients and their families with a better quality of life.

Alberta Health Services (AHS) is responsible for administering and delivering health care services in the province, including kidney care. I am advised that both the Northern and Southern Alberta Renal Program offer a six-week orientation program with routine follow-up technique checks for patients eligible and interested in home hemodialysis. They also provide the dialysis machine, dialysis water equipment, routine testing of water, and all dialysis related supplies free of charge. All electrical, water source and drains are inspected to meet standard dialysis requirements for home hemodialysis and AHS will provide upgrades if necessary.

In addition to the support that AHS provides, I am pleased to inform you that the Ministry of Health has signed a grant agreement with The Kidney Foundation of Canada, which will better support those Albertans who receive home hemodialysis. Starting on April 1, 2019, Albertans will be able to apply to The Kidney Foundation of Canada for reimbursement of utility expenses for water and power related to their treatment.

Please know that I appreciate the work that the Strathmore Town Council has done in providing a grant to off set utility costs for community members using home hemodialysis. I assure you this important issue is being watched, and our government is always looking for ways to improve health care for Albertans.

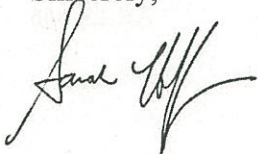
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Again, thank you for taking the time to express your concerns.

Sincerely,



Sarah Hoffman
Deputy Premier
Minister of Health