

Newsletter 11 August 2023

A SPECIAL EDITION ABOUT THE U-DRAIN SYSTEM

We have had a good number of very positive reports from both patients and their nurses, referencing a good installation process, a cleaner process and no more need to carry heavy messy waste bags through the house. Richard Holland uses the system and has kindly written the note below.

Hello everyone, my name is Richard Holland. I'm 72 years old, retired and live with my wife and carer, Patti, in Taunton, Somerset. I have been a renal patient under the care of the RD&E Renal Unit since being diagnosed with chronic kidney disease in 1996. I was on home dialysis for three years until I received the wonderful gift of a transplant in 1999, which saw me through a busy career and well into retirement until it started to fail in 2021. For the last two years I have again been on home peritoneal dialysis, thankfully, much improved over the last 22 years. I'm now on permanent overnight dialysis on my trusty APD machine, as I can't risk another transplant, due to my medical condition and age. So, it's important to me to make this as simple and comfortable as possible as part of my daily routine.

Although I'm happy with my machine and have grown used to its intermittent buzzes and bleeps, (my wife calls it purring), the reliance on cumbersome drainage bags is definitely tiresome and frustrating. Having to carry two heavy bags containing 15 litres/kg of waste fluid to cut open and empty into the toilet every morning is difficult for either of us and liable to spillage. On one occasion a bag burst overnight, fortunately within a plastic storage container, otherwise it would have been all over the bedroom floor. My wife and I had great difficulty in moving all 15 litres without spillage and could only dump it in the bath.

I had considered using a 12ft drainage line extension taped to our toilet overnight, but this would be just another trip hazard, as I already have a 12 ft extension on my feed line trailing behind me, which needs to be wound back on my nightly stumbles to the bathroom. Then along came salvation in the form of Ged Murphy and his innovative U-drain system. My Nurse Sarah told me about the system and I was soon speaking to Ged about the installation, which would be funded by the EDKPA.

It was simple and quick to arrange a survey with Ged and he advised that he would fit the system on the same day if the survey confirmed that a connection could be made through an external wall to the existing drainage system. Ged and his wife are lovely people and true to his word they surveyed and installed the system very efficiently on the same day, left supplies and instructed me on its use.

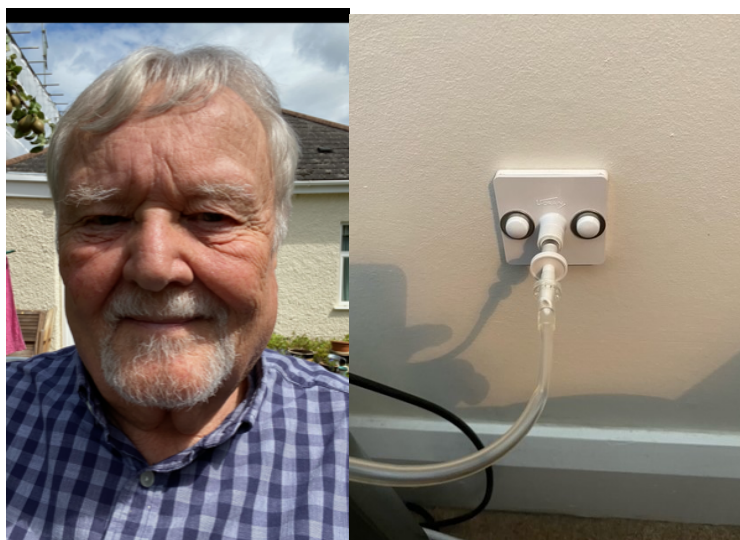
What a brilliant solution it is. A simple drain connection through the external wall and an insulated pipe connection to an existing soil pipe. It looks just like a tv aerial socket next to my machine into which I can plug my drainage line.

I tried it out the same night and had perfect drainage, with nothing but a small sample bag to dispose of in the morning. No more heavy drainage bags to empty and dispose of. A significant reduction in plastic waste in my waste bin.

I seem to have better drainage, less alarms and better-quality sleep. Maybe there is a better flow directly to the waste system rather than to almost full drainage bags. I don't know, I'm just happy with a system that saves time setting up, has easier waste disposal, is less onerous to use and gives me a better quality of life.

I would recommend it to all APD patients who currently use drainage bags.

So thank you Sarah, thank you Ged and thank you to the EDKPA for supporting and promoting the U-drain system.



The Secretary EDKPA
Jean Aplin, 13 Crowden Crescent,
Tiverton, Devon, EX16 4ET

Tel: 01884 254260
Email: info@edkpa.org.uk
Registered Charity no: 276981