

THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE HOME:

Assisted-HHD with Dialysis Liaisons—Keeping Care in the Comfort of Home

Jaclyn Lipsett, RN; Kim Capoccitti, MN, RN; Teresita Jabier-Nacario, RN; Monica Da Silva, RN, MHA

DESCRIPTION

Humber River Health's Home Hemodialysis (HHD) program, integrated an internal Dialysis Liaison (DL) model to assist patients with at-home hemodialysis treatments, as part of the Ontario Renal Network's (ORN) provincial pilot project. DLs, who are certified PSWs or equivalent, assist those unable to perform dialysis treatments or lacking family support, enhancing access to care and quality of life. They provide care under the guidance of home dialysis nurses. If a patient's condition changes, the Nephrology team directs any necessary interventions to relevant interdisciplinary staff.

OBJECTIVE

Utilizing Dialysis Liaisons to provide dialysis treatment to patients in the comfort of their home.

ACTIONS TAKEN

The HHD team explored integrating assisted-HHD treatments with extending the home program with DLs to allow for program growth and streamline operations and services.

- Reviewed program volumes and community needs for assisted-HHD support. Noted 46% increase in volumes within the last five years and a significant increase in PSW assistance at greater than 400%.
- Standardize DL training developed to align with HRH values and expectations; including nephrology theory, hands on training, troubleshooting, and procedures on escalation of care.
- Pre and post survey conducted to assess quality of life and obtain feedback on assisted-HHD support.

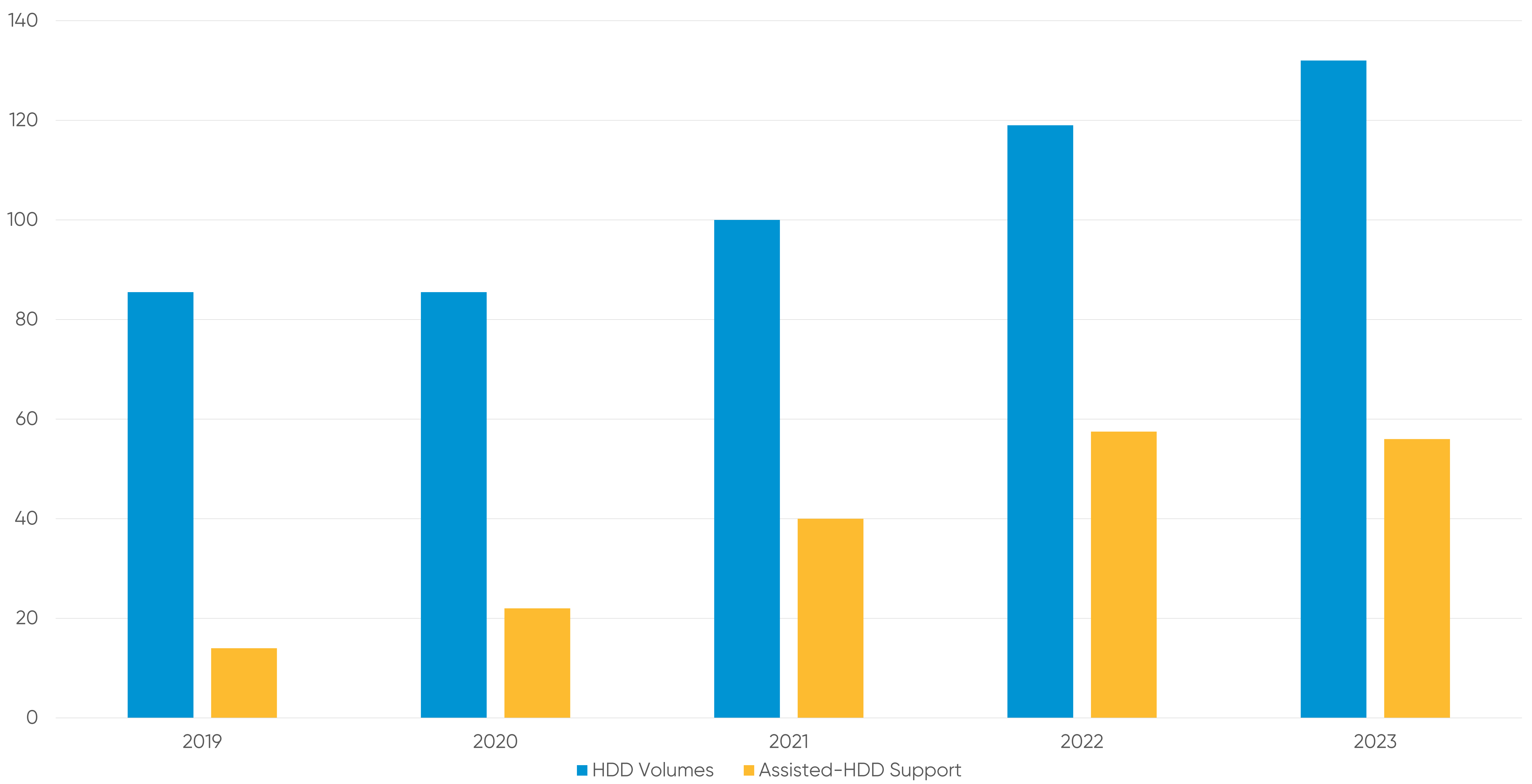


Figure 1. Within the last three years, the HHD program experienced an increased volume by 46%, and a significant increase in PSW assistance a little over than 400%.



Figure 2. Picture of a patient receiving home hemodialysis retrieved from the HRH Foundation.

SUMMARY OF RESULTS

Pre and post assisted-HHD program surveys revealed:

- Prior to the assisted-HHD program, patients rated their quality of life at 57%
- After transitioning to the assisted-HHD program, patients' quality of life ratings increased significantly to 93%
- One patient's family member commented, "My mom has more freedom and time which helps the whole family because of the flexibility"

Despite limitations to the DL role, there is a notable, overall positive response to its addition in HRH's assisted-HHD program.

LESSONS LEARNED

The inclusion of internal DLs in the assisted-HHD program increases the Nephrology team's ability to support HHD patients through their continuum of care and enhancing quality of life.

