

# IN TOUCH

*Do you ever wonder about other people with kidney disease? How they manage their PD schedules? Do the things they want to do? Probably. It's only natural.*

*Baxter would like to help you get "in touch" with some of those people with this new, quarterly newsletter. You'll find interesting stories about people like you, who are living their lives with PD.*

*More than 20,000 people have chosen Baxter PD therapy. Getting In Touch is one way to learn more about them—and share what they've learned about living with dialysis. Here is one of their stories.*

## **PD is for the (Snow) Birds!**

New Jersey dentist Donald Platnick knew exactly what he wanted to do when he retired: become a snowbird! He and his wife would spend summers in their long-time home, close to their children and grandchildren. When the weather turned cold, they'd head south to Florida to relax in the sun.

Then, 4 years ago, Donald was diagnosed with kidney failure. The Platnicks were determined to keep their retirement dreams alive—and peritoneal dialysis (PD) made their travel plans possible. "I've never had a problem getting my supplies," declares Platnick. "Dawn (his Baxter Home Patient Service Representative, or HPSR) always calls to make sure everything is in place for me when I arrive."

## **Getting into a Routine**

After almost 4 years of traveling between New Jersey and Florida, Platnick and his wife have a routine. "You've got to make sure everything is in place so you can do your dialysis when you arrive," Platnick notes. "I carry my *Home Choice* machine with me, and I take a lot of other stuff, too. Everything except the solutions. I also carry a letter for airport security explaining what the machine is for."

To make sure he brings it all, Platnick has a checklist, including masks, beta-dine, clips, drain bags, blister film, mini-caps, and more. "We pack everything in separate Ziploc® bags and I check it all over before we leave," he said.

Platnick would like to have a *Home Choice* cyclor at home *and* in Florida, but he can move his machine from place to place. In airports, after thorough security checks, he and his wife put the cyclor on a cart and wheel it onto the plane.



Once on board, the flight attendants usually stow the machine in a closet, but it fits under the seat, too.

At his destination, Platnick makes sure that his bedroom is set up for nighttime cycling. "You need a table for the machine that is level to the bed," he points out. He has used lamp tables, a bridge table...anything that works.

### **Learning from Experience**

Over the years, Platnick has found that traveling at non-peak times makes things easier. "We try to fly mid-day or mid-week," he suggests. "Things go a little smoother if you travel when it's not too busy."

Experience has also made the Platnicks willing to schedule other trips. "I just call

ahead to be sure the hotel has someone who will be responsible for receiving and storing my supplies," said Platnick. "If you explain what you need, people are usually willing to help."

As "snowbirds" the Platnicks enjoy the best of all seasons. Donald's kidneys may have failed, but PD allows him to keep doing the things he loves.

### **Let Us Hear from You**

*This is a pilot issue of In Touch, and if you like it, please let us know! Your feedback tells us you'd like to keep receiving this newsletter. Jot down your thoughts, comments, PD tips, and topic ideas on the enclosed card and drop it in the mail—no postage is needed.*

## **Holiday Travel Planning**

For most of us, holiday plans include spending time with family and friends. If you need to travel to be with your loved ones for the holidays, start planning now!

Your Baxter HPSR is happy to ship PD solutions to make your travel easier.

### **What you need to do:**

- ✈ Discuss your plans with your center
- ✈ Call your Baxter HPSR at least 14 business days before you plan to travel in the U.S. (allow 30 business days for trips to Alaska and Hawaii)
- ✈ Have all your travel information ready, including:

- Vacation address and zip code
- Vacation phone number and contact person
- Arrival and departure dates
- Products and amounts you need



Your Baxter HPSR will call your center and arrange to deliver your bags to your travel destination. You will need to bring your cyler (if you use one) and all your other supplies.

With a little planning and help from Baxter, you can spend your holidays with your family—wherever they are.

**Baxter**

[www.kidneydirections.com](http://www.kidneydirections.com)