

## DIALYSIS AT SEA

# Can you cruise *if you're on dialysis?*

Often, yes — and the lines publish more about it than most people realise. Here is what each one says, so you walk into the conversation knowing exactly what to ask.

Read this first

**This page is a starting point, not medical advice.** We're sharing what each cruise line publishes so you know what to ask. **Your cruise line and your nephrologist have the final word** — always confirm with them before you book.

**Video coming soon**

Can You Cruise If You're on Dialysis? — Episode #4

Can you go on a cruise if you're on dialysis?

**Often, yes.** Royal Caribbean, Celebrity and Princess welcome guests who do their own peritoneal dialysis or self-administered hemodialysis, but **ship medical teams do not perform dialysis**. For hemodialysis done by a medical team, Royal Caribbean and Celebrity point guests to **Dialysis at Sea** on select sailings. Confirm details with your cruise line and your kidney doctor.

[↓ Download this page \(PDF\).](#)

What each line publishes

Three columns, because the answer depends entirely on which kind of dialysis you do. The last column says how sure we are.

| CRUISE LINE     | PERITONEAL (PD)                 | HOME HEMODIALYSIS YOU RUN YOURSELF   | HEMODIALYSIS BY A MEDICAL TEAM                          | SOURCE          |
|-----------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Royal Caribbean | Welcome; bring or ship supplies | Welcome "under certain requirements" | Dialysis at Sea, select sailings: <b>1-800-544-7604</b> | Line's own site |

| CRUISE LINE            | PERITONEAL (PD)                                                    | HOME HEMODIALYSIS YOU RUN YOURSELF                                           | HEMODIALYSIS BY A MEDICAL TEAM                                          | SOURCE                          |
|------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <b>Celebrity</b>       | Welcome on all ships                                               | Permitted "under certain requirements"                                       | Dialysis at Sea, select sailings: <b>1-800-544-7604</b>                 | <a href="#">Line's own site</a> |
| <b>Prince ss</b>       | Welcome if stable; do it yourself or with a trained companion      | Allowed (e.g. NxStage)                                                       | Onboard staff "not equipped or trained to perform any type of dialysis" | <a href="#">Line's own site</a> |
| <b>Holland America</b> | Welcome if stable; supplies delivered with port clearance arranged | Allowed; 12 months' experience with the system, for you and anyone assisting | No nephrology services aboard; no back-up battery for equipment         | <a href="#">Line's own site</a> |
| <b>Carnival</b>        | Welcome if stable; you bring and self-administer                   | Allowed (e.g. NxStage), 12 months' experience                                | Medical staff "not equipped or trained to perform any type of dialysis" | <a href="#">Line's own site</a> |
| <b>Virgin Voyag</b>    | Sailors on peritoneal                                              | Virgin states it cannot provide the equipment — ask their                    |                                                                         | <a href="#">Line's own site</a> |

| CRUISE LINE            | PERITONEAL (PD)                                                                                      | HOME HEMODIALYSIS YOU RUN YOURSELF | HEMODIALYSIS BY A MEDICAL TEAM                                                      | SOURCE             |
|------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| es                     | dialysis may bring their own equipment                                                               | accessibility team possible        | what else is                                                                        |                    |
| <b>Norwegian (NCL)</b> | Reported: continuous ambulatory PD welcome, supplies delivered before sailing                        | Ask the Access Desk                | Reported partnerships for staffed treatment on some ships, with long notice periods | Reported — confirm |
| <b>Cunard</b>          | Reported: peritoneal only, performed by you or your companion                                        | Ask Cunard                         | Reported: cannot accept hemodialysis guests                                         | Reported — confirm |
| <b>MSC</b>             | Reported as limited and ship-dependent. Nothing we could verify on MSC's own pages — ask at booking. |                                    |                                                                                     | Reported — confirm |

**Line's own site** means we read it on the cruise line's own published pages on 28 September 2026. **Reported — confirm** means we found it in travel press, agency pages or cruiser forums but **could not verify it on the**

**line's own site.** Treat the second kind as a question to ask, not an answer.

Still a starting point

These are the published positions on 28 September 2026. Policies change, and they can differ by ship and itinerary. **Ask your line about your sailing.**

## Each line's rules *and contacts*

### Royal Caribbean

- Send the **Guest Special Needs Form at least 30 days** before sailing.
- Tell them whether you're bringing supplies or having them delivered — include the vendor's name and phone number.
- "For hemodialysis, please call us."
- Your medical supplier contacts the Access Department to arrange delivery to the port.
- **Access Department: (866) 592-7225 · [special\\_needs@rccl.com](mailto:special_needs@rccl.com)**

### Celebrity

- **Access Department: (954) 628-9708 · [special\\_needs@celebrity.com](mailto:special_needs@celebrity.com)**

### Princess

- Be **stable on dialysis for at least 12 months.**

- Get medical clearance and a report with your prescription from your treating doctor for your itinerary, and carry it with you.
- Bring all equipment and supplies for the whole voyage.
- Arrange vendor delivery to the ship if needed.
- **Not recommended** on remote itineraries or ocean crossings.
- Princess strongly recommends extra travel insurance that covers your condition and medical evacuation.
- You can arrange dialysis at a port of call, but **port calls are never guaranteed**.

### Holland America

- Guests on dialysis are welcome **if their condition is stable**, they carry their own equipment and self-administer, or travel with a trained individual.
- **Onboard medical staff are not equipped or trained to perform any type of dialysis**, and there are no nephrology services aboard.
- They recommend being **stable for at least 12 months**, and note the cruise environment is higher risk than a home setting.
- **Ships carry no back-up battery support** for dialysis equipment.
- Peritoneal supplies must be delivered before sailing, and **port clearance has to be arranged** through [GuestAccessibility@HollandAmerica.com](mailto:GuestAccessibility@HollandAmerica.com) or your supplier can be denied access to the port.
- A **vendor information form is due no later than one week** before sailing, and there is a separate dialysis risk acknowledgement to sign.

- Label every item with your name, contact details and stateroom number.

## Carnival

- Welcome if stable, carrying your own equipment and self-administering to your nephrologist's instruction.
- **Medical staff are not equipped or trained to perform any type of dialysis.**
- Self-administered systems such as NxStage are allowed with **12 months' experience**, including anyone caring for you.
- You and your supplier are **responsible for delivery before the ship sails**, and you assume the risk of third-party services including their refund terms.

## Virgin Voyages

- Virgin states it **cannot provide dialysis equipment**, but sailors undergoing **peritoneal dialysis may bring their own**.
- Contact their accessibility team before booking:  
[accessibility@virginvoyages.com](mailto:accessibility@virginvoyages.com) or **(954) 372-3721**.

## Norwegian, Cunard, MSC and everyone else

- We found reports about all three, but **nothing we could verify on their own sites**, so we're not going to print it as fact.
- Norwegian's Access Desk: [accessdesk@ncl.com](mailto:accessdesk@ncl.com). Cunard and MSC handle it through guest services at booking.
- [Every line's accessibility contact is on our forms page →](#)

## Dialysis at Sea

- Provides hemodialysis on **select Royal Caribbean and Celebrity sailings**, with a board eligible or certified nephrologist and two or more dialysis nurses.
- **Spots are limited — book early.**
- dialysisatsea.com · **+1 813-775-4040** (the cruise lines list 1-800-544-7604)

Still a starting point

Contacts and deadlines change, and the person you reach may know a rule that isn't published anywhere. **Get your answer from the line, in writing, and keep it.**

## *Costs and coverage*

- One insurance company, **Travel Guard**, says onboard treatment "can cost up to **\$700 per session.**"
- Travel Guard also says "**Medicare and Medicaid typically do not cover dialysis treatment on a cruise.**" Check your own plan.
- Consider travel insurance that covers your condition and medical evacuation. *[Compare plans — link to be added with affiliate disclosure.]*
- **We are not licensed insurance agents**, and nothing here is insurance advice.

## *Questions to ask your kidney doctor*

1. Am I stable enough to travel, and for how long have I been stable?
2. Can you write a medical clearance and a report with my prescription for this itinerary?
3. How many sessions or exchanges will I need, and how much extra supply should I pack for delays?
4. What should I do if I miss a treatment or feel unwell at sea?
5. Which ports have dialysis centers if I need one?

### Questions to ask *your cruise line*

1. Which type of dialysis can I do on this ship?
2. How do supplies get delivered, and where are they stored?
3. What forms do you need, and by when?
4. Is this a sailing that Dialysis at Sea serves, if I need staffed hemodialysis?
5. What happens if a port call is canceled?

## Free download: Cruising on Dialysis Checklist

The three-kinds table, each line's contacts and deadlines, both question lists, and a packing and supply checklist — supplies for the full trip plus extra days, prescriptions, doctor's letter, vendor delivery confirmation, insurance card. The "starting point, not medical advice" note is on every page of it.

your@email.com

mm/dd/yyyy



## Send me the checklist

The sail date is optional — we only use it to time your reminders.  
Unsubscribe anytime.

[Or download it straight away, no email needed →](#)

Saying it once more, because it matters

**This page is a starting point, not medical advice.** Your cruise line and your nephrologist have the final word. If something here doesn't match what your line tells you, **believe your line** — and please [tell us](#) so we can correct it.

### Where this comes from

- Facts checked on each cruise line's official website on **28 September 2026**.
- [royalcaribbean.com/experience/accessible-cruising](https://royalcaribbean.com/experience/accessible-cruising)
- [royalcaribbean.com/resources/guest-special-needs](https://royalcaribbean.com/resources/guest-special-needs)
- [celebritycruises.com/special-needs/medical-needs](https://celebritycruises.com/special-needs/medical-needs)
- [princess.com/faq/pre-cruise](https://princess.com/faq/pre-cruise) · [dialysisatsea.com](https://dialysisatsea.com) · [travelguard.com](https://travelguard.com)
- [Every line's accessibility form and contact](#) · [How we check things](#)

*Facts checked 28 September 2026.*

*Sails Anyway is not a medical provider, not a licensed insurance agent, and not affiliated with any cruise line. Dialysis policies change without notice and differ by line, ship and itinerary. Confirm everything with your cruise line and your own doctor.*

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