Patients with end-stage kidney disease who are considering home hemodialysis (HHD) face the challenge of learning to self-cannulate their arteriovenous access” Ward et al (2018).

Abstract:

Patients with end-stage kidney disease who are considering home hemodialysis (HHD) face the challenge of learning to self-cannulate their arteriovenous access. Current practice discourages the use of tunneled central venous catheters, with recent indications that self-cannulating patients have superior outcomes. Patient-level barriers do not appear to preclude a successful HHD program and should not be viewed as insurmountable by healthcare staff or patients. The healthcare team must address patient fears while instructing the patient to perform self-cannulation safely. Identification and understanding of the barriers perceived by the patient will allow the patient and healthcare team work collaboratively, toward the goal of independence with self-cannulation both during initial training and follow-up care. The aim of this review was to provide a practical resource to aid in the identification and resolution of these patient-level barriers, with the overall goal of improving the patient experience and medical outcomes in home hemodialysis programs.

Reference: