

# Loving & Living Life!

## Ralph's\* journey from in-center to home, with the Liberty® Select Cycler

\*Ralph is a NxStage Patient Advocate



In the fall of 2012, Superstorm Sandy battered the coast of New Jersey, and severely damaged Ralph and Molly's home in Little Egg Harbor. "I can't describe the disarray in the house," Ralph remembers. "Dresser drawers were filled with water; all the floors and furniture were under water. We had to rip up the floor, throw away our bedding, cabinets, everything."

These days the coastal residence has been redone and looks better than ever. Thanks to Ralph's home improvement skills, it's a place where family and friends come for gatherings, events, and even vacations. But back in August of 2018, it was Ralph's health, not house that needed "renovating."

While returning from a road trip to Florida for his son's wedding, Ralph began feeling "absolutely exhausted." Thanks to careful monitoring by his doctor's he was already aware his kidney function was declining. So, once home, he went for a blood test. "My nephrologist called me a few days later from his home," Ralph recounts. "He said, 'Get to the hospital now.'"

### Ralph didn't hesitate.

"They took me to the ER, and I got two pints of blood and an emergency catheter in my neck," Ralph explains. "The next thing I know, I'm on dialysis."

In-center treatments for the first few months had Ralph feeling better but grew tired of 70-mile roundtrip drives to the clinic three times a week. He remembered the information presented by one of his nurses about home dialysis modalities and with encouragement from his doctor, decided to try peritoneal dialysis (PD) with the Liberty Select cycler.

He says PD has him feeling better than he has in many years, and he is able to do all the things he enjoys, whether working around the house, spending time with grandchildren, or working on his model trains. His friends are amazed at his energy level, and positive attitude in the face of his disease, which he takes in stride.

"I'm fortunate to be the kind of person where you tell me what I have to do, and I'm going to do it.

Ralph does three exchanges a day and loves the freedom the Liberty Select provides, allowing him flexibility with his therapy schedule.

"I often hook up at 9 p.m., and I can walk out and watch TV with my wife while on the machine," he explains. "If we have an early morning, I just hook up that much earlier at night. If we have company or a party, I hook up later."



One of the most attractive attributes of PD and the Liberty Select, for Ralph, is that it travels well. A year after his kidney's failed, Ralph and Molly's kids surprised them with the gift of a family beach vacation in South Carolina.

"It went great," says Ralph. "I brought the cycler and couple of days of supplies, and had the rest delivered."

Ralph describes the Liberty Select cycler as intuitive, and says the mobility of the the rolling cart make it user-friendly. In addition, the responsive customer service give him a high level of confidence.

"In two years, I could count on one hand how many times I've had a problem with the cycler," says Ralph. "It's usually something minor. The last time it alarmed, in about 20 minutes they walked me through four or five steps to fix it."

Not all patients will experience these benefits

Given his success on PD, Ralph recently decided to become a Patient Advocate for NxStage Medical/Fresenius Medical Care North America, helping educate other dialysis patients about the benefits of therapy with the Liberty Select cycler. Sometimes Molly will speak with the spouses of patients to help reassure them as well.

"If I can come and talk to people and they can feel more comfortable hearing from an actual patient, I have no problem doing that," says Ralph. "The fact that I can possibly offer some help to people that are on the fence (about therapy), that's the biggest factor."

Ralph says he enjoys his new role and brings positivity and a sense of humor to his approach.

**For more information on Peritoneal Dialysis with the Liberty Cycler, call your local home therapy sales representative.**

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The reported benefits of peritoneal dialysis may not be experienced by all patients. Peritoneal dialysis does involve some risks that may be related to the patient, center, or equipment. These include, but are not limited to, infectious complications. Examples of infectious complications include peritonitis and exit-site and tunnel infections. Non-infectious complications include catheter complication such as migration and obstruction, peritoneal leaks, constipation, hemoperitoneum, hydrothorax, increased intraperitoneal volume, and respiratory and gastric issues. It is important for healthcare providers to monitor patient prescriptions and achievement of adequate fluid management goals.

Patients should consult their doctor to understand the risks and responsibilities of performing peritoneal dialysis.

Indications for Use: The Liberty Select cycler is indicated for acute and chronic peritoneal dialysis. The stay•safe PIN connectors are intended for use with a peritoneal dialysis (PD) cycler for drainage and infusion of PD solution during PD exchanges. The stay•safe PIN connectors are indicated for use in acute and chronic peritoneal dialysis.

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