

GET TO KNOW YOUR ED PATIENTS

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The Stories and Life Journeys of People Who Use(d) Substances

"Thank you for
listening to what I
have to say."

"Even the ones [patients] that are
harder to manage will actually slow
down a bit and be easier if you treat
them with respect."



I'm still here and
I'm still alive.



MR. D

Retired Engineer



After spending his youth and early adulthood in Winnipeg, Mr. D decided to find a fresh start in British Columbia. He was an engineer back home, and picked up some work when he arrived. He started drinking and smoking marijuana from a young age, but when he moved to BC, he was introduced to cocaine and crystal meth. It wasn't until he was in a horrible car accident that he started using opioids to help with his pain. He tried to quit opioids in the past, and even had a seven-year sober stretch after a stay in a treatment facility. Eventually, he started to have health issues which brought him to the St. Paul's Hospital where he was diagnosed with chronic kidney disease. It had progressed to the point where he required dialysis. Since this diagnosis, he's been on a journey to cut down his opioid use and be an active participant in his health care. In life, he is most proud of the steps he has taken to prioritize his health and participate in dialysis. He receives dialysis at St. Paul's Hospital and credits the staff for helping him navigate this new situation. "Thank you all for being there for me, I'm still here and I'm still alive."