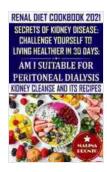
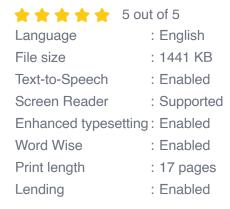
# Am I Suitable for Peritoneal Dialysis? A Comprehensive Guide to Evaluating Your Candidacy

Peritoneal dialysis (PD) is a type of dialysis that uses the lining of your abdomen (peritoneal membrane) to filter waste products and excess fluid from your blood. PD is a common treatment option for people with end-stage renal disease (ESRD), which is the final stage of kidney failure.



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Not everyone is a suitable candidate for PD. There are a number of factors that can affect your eligibility for this treatment, including:

#### **Medical Factors**

- Age: PD is generally not recommended for people who are over the age of 75.
- Overall health: You need to be in relatively good health to be a candidate for PD. This means that you should not have any major medical conditions that would make it difficult to tolerate the procedure.
- **Kidney function:** Your kidneys must be functioning at a certain level in order to be able to produce enough urine to make PD effective.
- Abdominal surgery: If you have had any major abdominal surgery, you may not be a suitable candidate for PD.
- Infections: If you have any active infections, you may not be able to start PD until the infections are cleared.

#### **Lifestyle Factors**

- **Commitment:** PD is a demanding treatment that requires a significant amount of time and effort. You will need to be able to commit to the daily treatments and follow the prescribed diet and fluid restrictions.
- Living situation: You will need to have a clean and safe environment in which to perform your PD treatments. You will also need to have access to a reliable source of clean water.
- Social support: Having a support system of family and friends can be helpful when you are undergoing PD. They can provide emotional support and help you with the practical aspects of treatment.

#### **Evaluation Process**

If you are interested in PD, you will need to undergo an evaluation to determine if you are a suitable candidate. The evaluation process typically

#### includes:

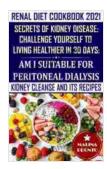
- Medical history: Your doctor will ask you about your medical history, including any previous surgeries or infections.
- Physical exam: Your doctor will perform a physical exam to assess your overall health and to check for any abdominal abnormalities.
- Blood tests: Blood tests will be done to check your kidney function and to rule out any infections.
- Ultrasound: An ultrasound may be done to assess the size and shape of your abdomen and to check for any abnormalities.

#### **Making an Informed Decision**

Once you have completed the evaluation process, your doctor will discuss the results with you and help you make an informed decision about whether or not PD is right for you. It is important to weigh the benefits and risks of PD carefully before making a decision.

PD can be a life-saving treatment for people with ESRD. However, it is not the right choice for everyone. If you are considering PD, it is important to talk to your doctor about your individual needs and circumstances to determine if it is a suitable treatment option for you.

PD is a complex treatment that requires a significant amount of time and effort. However, it can also be a life-saving treatment for people with ESRD. If you are considering PD, it is important to talk to your doctor about your individual needs and circumstances to determine if it is a suitable treatment option for you.



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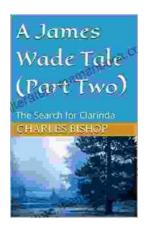
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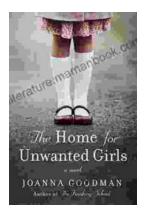
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