



*Administrator*  
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Kidney Patient,

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, the Federal Medicare Agency, has just learned from the renal registry that you have End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD). As a health care payer, we want to make sure that you get good care and the information you need to make informed choices. We are pleased to give you this packet of information that includes:

1. **"The Medicare Coverage of Kidney Dialysis and Kidney Transplant Services" booklet.** This booklet tells you how Medicare helps to pay for dialysis and kidney transplants. It also has phone numbers you can call for help.
2. **"You Can Live: Your Medicare Guide for Living with Kidney Failure."** This booklet provides lots of information that new ESRD patients wanted to know when they began dialysis or prepared for transplant.
3. **"Preparing for Emergencies: A Guide for Patients on Dialysis."** This guide gives you facts about what to do in case of an emergency.
4. **A letter of introduction from your ESRD Network.** Your Network can help you find services, get information, and solve problems involving your care.
5. **"Vascular Access is a hemodialysis patient's lifeline."** Is an insert that provides important information to discuss with your kidney doctor about your dialysis access.
6. **"Medicare.gov: Dialysis Facility Compare"** This brochure describes the Medicare web site and the new guide to Medicare certified facilities.
7. **"American Association of Kidney Patients (AAKP) Information Brochure"** describes the AAKP and how it can help you live with kidney disease.
8. **"National Kidney Foundation (NKF) Patient Information Brochure"** describes some of the ways that the NKF can help you cope with your illness.

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One way you can help yourself to feel better and be healthier is to learn as much as you can about your illness. Your facility staff should give you information about how to take care of yourself. Read the information that is given to you. If you have questions, don't be afraid to ask someone for help.

In addition to your dialysis facility staff, your local ESRD Network and State Survey Agency can help you if you have a problem. Their phone numbers are included in the Network's letter of introduction, which is in this package. ESRD Networks and State Survey Agencies monitor quality of care in dialysis facilities. Networks also keep your facility aware of the import dialysis and transplant issues. State Survey Agencies inspect facilities and make sure that standards are met.

We hope this packet will be helpful to you as you start dialysis or prepare for transplant.

Sincerely,

Administrator  
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

Enclosures