



Questions to Help With Your Treatment Choices

Asking questions can help you learn more about your kidney disease diagnosis. Knowing what questions to ask is not always easy. Talk with your care team members using the questions below from patients who have been on this journey.

My Kidneys

Talk to your nephrologist (kidney doctor)

- What do my kidneys do?
- What caused my kidneys to stop working? Will they get better?
- What other problems might I have now or in the future because of my kidney disease?
- Why is blood pressure so important?

My Treatment Choices

Talk to your nephrologist (kidney doctor) or nurse

- What is dialysis and how does it help a patient with kidney failure?
- What are the pros and cons of:
 - Hemodialysis (in-center, home, and nocturnal)
 - Peritoneal dialysis (PD) (manual and cyclor)
 - Kidney transplant
- What do I need to do if I want to do dialysis at home?
- Can I try hemodialysis for a while and decide later to try another type of treatment to see what is the best choice for me?
- Am I a candidate for a kidney transplant? What do I need to do to get a kidney transplant?
- What happens if I decide to stop dialysis?

My Dialysis Access

Talk to your nephrologist (kidney doctor), vascular access surgeon, or nurse

- What are the different access options?
- What is a graft or central venous catheter (CVC) (sometimes called a port)?
- What is a PD catheter?
- What is a fistula? What are the benefits of having one?
- How can I tell if my fistula is getting the proper flow?
- If I'm afraid of needles, what can I do to help with the pain?
- Can I be taught to do my own needle sticks?

My Treatment

Talk to your nurse or social worker

- How is my dialysis treatment plan decided?
- What type of medicine will I have to take? What does it do to help me?
- How much does dialysis cost and who will pay for it?
- Where can I get more information to keep learning about my kidney disease and treatment?



“The more you know about your disease, your dialysis choice, and your body, the better able you are to manage your health.”

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