

PARTICIPANT FOLLOW-UP IN THE KIDNEY EARLY EVALUATION PROGRAM (KEEP) AFTER INITIAL DETECTION

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Chronic kidney disease (CKD) detection in a targeted, at-risk population has been reported in the National Kidney Foundation's Kidney Early Evaluation Program (KEEP). This study assessed follow-up within three months of detection to determine if participants saw a physician, kinds of care addressed, and potential interventions.

KEEP is a free, community-based health screening program to raise kidney disease awareness and detect CKD for early disease intervention. Participants receive laboratory results and educational materials about kidney disease risks and treatment options. Physicians receive laboratory results for their participating KEEP patients, and clinical practice guidelines for CKD care.

Between August 2000 and December 2006, 72,395 KEEP participants met entry criteria. Follow-up forms were sent to all participants; response rate was 28.4%. Responders were more likely to be older, female, white, living in the western United States, with high school education or higher, and with decreasing kidney function by estimated glomerular filtration rates. Among respondents, 71% reported seeing physicians in follow-up. Those with evidence of CKD were 24% more likely to see physicians than those without CKD. Follow-up with physicians was more likely with decreasing kidney function levels, increasing albuminuria levels, and more advanced CKD stage.

The KEEP detection program, with disease education, appears to motivate the targeted population to seek physician care for findings noted. Longer term follow-up is needed to determine if detection and physician follow-up lead to changes in care and outcomes that may affect the elevated risk of death, ESRD, or cardiovascular events.