

Current Situation



Kidney transplant recipients must take immunosuppressive drugs for the life of their transplant, or they increase the risk of losing their kidney.



Medicare pays for dialysis and a patient's transplant surgery, but only covers immunosuppressive drugs for 36 months post-transplant.



Coverage of these critical medications stops until the beneficiary is Medicare-aged or Medicare-disabled. As a result, patients must find other insurance coverage or pay out of pocket for these medications required to maintain their new kidney.



Co-sponsor and help pass:

The Comprehensive Immunosuppressive Drug Coverage for Kidney Transplant Patients Act (S. 3353/H.R. 5534)



This legislation, introduced by Sen. Cassidy (R-LA) and Sen. Durbin (D-IL), and Rep. Kind (D-WI) and Rep. Burgess (R-TX), will extend Medicare's coverage of immunosuppressive medications indefinitely for kidney transplant patients, ensuring they have access to these lifesaving medications. This will not only save lives, but will save taxpayers between \$73 million and \$300 million over 10 years according to two analyses by HHS and CMS. A preliminary CBO estimate also shows a net savings.

"I had to make the difficult decision to pause my status on the transplant list as I have no idea how I can pay for those drugs essential to maintaining a transplant."

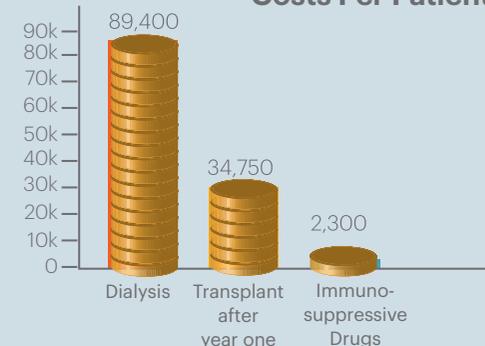
"Having access to affordable immunosuppressant medication is so important to my son. Now only 27, his transplanted kidney has to last - we can't afford to have him go back on dialysis to live."

For more information contact Troy Zimmerman at
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Problem/Barriers

The Medicare End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) program pays for dialysis or transplantation for most of the nearly 750,000 kidney disease patients regardless of their ages.

**Annual Medicare
Costs Per Patient**



If a transplant recipient loses the kidney, he or she has to go back on dialysis and the wait list for a kidney transplant. Nearly 100,000 people are on the kidney wait list and nearly 3,400 people died in 2019 without receiving a kidney transplant.



National Kidney Foundation®

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