



## ***Social Work Services***

### **FOR THE PERSON WITH KIDNEY FAILURE**

**When you or a member of your family is diagnosed with kidney disease, you may have many questions such as:**

- What treatment choice is best for me?
- How will my life change because of my illness?
- How will my illness affect my family?
- How will I pay for my treatments?
- Will I be able to work and do things I want and need to do?

Kidney disease can change your life. Your healthcare team will work with you to help you feel your best and return to many of your normal activities. You may also want to become involved in new activities.

**Every dialysis clinic and transplant center has a master's prepared nephrology social worker who is there to help you and your family adjust to your illness and treatment.**

You are an important part of the healthcare team and your input in your care is key. Your social worker can help you understand your feelings and adjust to your new life with dialysis or a transplant.

**Your social worker can help you with:**

- concerns about how long and well you'll live with kidney failure
- coping with kidney disease and treatment
- concerns about your job
- understanding your rights and responsibilities
- concerns about your relationship with family and friends
- concerns about making healthcare decisions that work for you
- concerns about your role in your family
- concerns about sex and intimacy
- concerns about your care
- speaking on your behalf to the healthcare team
- concerns about life changes you may face
- finding your state advance directive for healthcare decisions.

**Your social worker may be able to guide you to federal, state, or local community resources for:**

- paying for treatment or medications
- keeping your job, finding a new job or volunteering
- income to meet day-to-day expenses
- home healthcare services
- affordable housing
- medical equipment
- support groups
- transportation
- exercise

Working with your nephrology social worker can help you live life to the fullest.

Fueled by passion and urgency, National Kidney Foundation is a lifeline for all people affected by kidney disease. As pioneers of scientific research and innovation, NKF focuses on the whole patient through the lens of kidney health. Relentless in our work, we enhance lives through action, education and accelerating change. The work of the National Kidney Foundation is funded by public donations.