

Facility tours are an excellent way to show Members of Congress why quality dialysis care is so important to you and to millions of other Americans as well. Unless they have a personal connection with kidney failure or dialysis, many people aren't even aware of what the process involves. DPC hopes you will invite Members of Congress into your facility for a tour. We are here to help.

What is a Facility Tour?

A facility tour is a brief 30-minute to 1-hour visit with your member of Congress, allowing him/her to witness dialysis firsthand. Members go on an organized tour with doctors, caregivers and patient representatives to learn about the care, equipment and medications that go into dialysis, and also hear personal stories about the importance of quality care.

Why is it Important?

Support from Members of Congress is crucial for patient care. The need for quality dialysis is on the rise, and government funding is important to ensure all patients can access the care they need. A Member of Congress who sees how dialysis helps his/her own constituents is likely to become committed to legislation that advances quality care.

How Do I Plan a Facility Tour?

1. Find out who represents your town/city in Congress.
2. Invite your Member of Congress in writing, and follow up with the appropriate individual.
3. Work with your facility administrator to arrange the tour.
4. Let DPC know about your tour!!!

If you have access to the Internet, please visit www.dialysispatients.org and click on "Advocating" for additional resources and information about these four steps. At any time, you can contact Tonya Salstrom with questions or concerns about planning your tour. She can be reached at dpc@dialysispatients.org or 1-866-877-4242.

What Public Policy Issues Might Arise?

You can learn more about public policy issues facing dialysis at www.dialysispatients.org. Some of the issues that might be discussed include:

- End Stage Renal Disease provisions in Medicare legislation
- Anemia management
- Quality guidelines