



Dialysis Patient Citizens (DPC) is the largest dialysis patient organization in America.

With more than 24,000 dialysis and pre-dialysis patients making up our membership, DPC is working to improve the quality of life for all dialysis patients through education and advocacy. We are a nationwide, non-profit, patient-led organization with membership open only to dialysis and pre-dialysis patients and their families. Our policies and our mission are guided solely by our membership.

Mission and Charter. DPC is a non-profit patient organization dedicated to improving dialysis patients' quality of life by developing awareness of dialysis issues, advocating for dialysis patients, promoting favorable public policy and improving the partnership between patients and caregivers.

We believe patients' quality of life is best improved by:

- Advancing self-care
- Fostering and strengthening partnerships among patients and caregivers
- Securing appropriate funding levels to ensure patient access to care
- Ensuring up-to-date, optimal clinical protocols

Patient Driven Organization. The intent of DPC is to reflect the voice of the patients. We rely on input from our membership to determine both our education and advocacy priorities. DPC members are invited to complete education and advocacy surveys indicating to help shape DPC's focus and determine the organizations priorities.

DPC wants to give a voice to dialysis patients. One of DPC's goals is to provide dialysis patients with the education, access and confidence to be their own advocates. Through Washington, DC patient fly-ins, conference calls and briefings, DPC works to train effective advocates for dialysis related issues. DPC is here to rally patients to have their voices heard.

Some facts about kidney disease and dialysis:

- At least twenty six million Americans have chronic kidney disease (CKD) and millions more are at risk.
- When kidney disease progresses, it may eventually lead to kidney failure, in which case patients require dialysis or a kidney transplant for survival. Typically, dialysis treatments are three times a week for approximately four hours at each session.
- More than 590,000 people have end stage renal disease (ESRD), requiring dialysis or transplant; the number is estimated to double in the next decade.
- Minorities in the United States are two to four times more likely to develop ESRD.
- CKD may lead to complications like high blood pressure, anemia, weak bones, poor nutritional health, nerve damage and an increased risk of heart and blood vessel disease.
- Currently more than 95,000 patients are waiting for a kidney transplant; last year, only a little more than 16,800 received transplants.
- Administering quality dialysis costs Medicare approximately \$78,000 per patient.
- Nearly half of people with an advanced form of kidney disease do not know they have weak or failing kidneys, according to recent research published in the American Journal of Kidney Diseases.

1012 14th Street, NW, Suite #1475 • Washington, D.C. 20005 • Toll Free 1.866.877.4242 Fax 1.888.423.5002 • www.dialysispatients.org • Email dpc@dialysispatients.org

DPC is a 501(c)(4) non-profit organization governed by dialysis patients