COVID-19 AND SOLID ORGAN TRANSPLANT

News and resources for organ procurement organizations and transplant hospitals about COVID-19

https://transplantliving.org/covid/

Navigating the coronavirus pandemic is difficult for everyone, but many challenges arise especially for transplant patients and those on the transplant wait-list. There are questions that many have regarding the process of kidney transplants during COVID-19. UNOS Chief Medical Officer David Klassen, M.D. answers questions for patients about COVID-19, the waiting list, inactivation, donor testing and other important topics regarding transplant.

Transplant Medication Assistance Resources

- American Transplant Foundation: Transplant Recipient Assistance
- UNOS Transplant Living: Prescribe Immunosuppressive Drug Assistance
- American Kidney Fund: Prescription Drug Resources
- National Kidney Foundation: Prescription Discount and Assistance Resources, Assistance Programs Offered by Pharmaceutical Companies
- Medicine Assistance Tool: Prescription Assistance, FAQ Page

Post kidney transplant medications are critical to maintaining your health and well-being after a transplant. Figuring out how to pay for your transplant medications should not be another stressor in your life. There are many programs available that offer medication assistance during these uncertain times. Learn more about the resources available to you and how you can get assistance with your medications.
ESRD Network of Texas Patient Subject Matter Experts (PSME) have coined the term P.I.E, which simply means Patient Information Exchange. We invite each facility to develop an online and/or virtual platform where patients, family members and caregivers can openly speak with their peers.

Patient, family members and caregivers often experience anxiety, depression, and frustrations. Providing a safe environment to express concerns can benefit a person’s overall mental health. Everyone with experience in dialysis can be a PSME. As a PSME you can share with others patients' suggestions to overcome barriers, provide encouragement to others, and simply build relationships. This can be done through a peer support group.

Patients, Family Members and Caregivers.

- Speak with your facility staff about how to join your facility’s online support group or other support groups.
- Join your meeting for patient engagement activities and additional support from your dialysis staff and peers.
- If you are experiencing mental health concerns (ex. Stress, anxiety, depression, etc.) please speak with your facility’s Social Worker. Also you can contact an anonymous Mental Health Hotline for additional patient support.
- Texas COVID-19 Mental Health Hotline 1-833-986-1919 additional information available here

ESRD Network of Texas Patient Portal

Visit the ESRD Network Patient Portal

Scan the QR Code with your Smartphone camera, then click the pop-up link that appears to visit the Patient Portal! You can also visit the Patient Portal here: www.esrdnetwork.org/patient-portal
Do you know you can access a list of Medicare approved dialysis facilities at Dialysis Compare?

Medicare has data you can use to compare dialysis facilities (centers) based on the quality of patient care they provide. You can also compare their patient experience survey results. [https://www.medicare.gov/dialysisfacilitycompare/](https://www.medicare.gov/dialysisfacilitycompare/)

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**ESRD National Coordinating Center (NCC)**

[https://esrdncc.org/en/](https://esrdncc.org/en/)

The ESRD NCC has created an informative new video and posted it to the ESRD NCC YouTube channel. In this video, viewers will learn about the essential steps you should take in preparing for a kidney transplant.

Check out the new video “11 Things to Get Ready for a Kidney Transplant” here: [https://youtu.be/gI6Ld3UDB2s](https://youtu.be/gI6Ld3UDB2s)

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**Are you interested in joining Network 14 Patient Advisory Committee (PAC)?**

Attention patients, family members and care partners:

The ESRD Network of Texas (Network 14) is in the process of recruiting a few good men and women to serve on the Network 14 Patient Advisory Committee (PAC). The PAC is comprised of ESRD patients and/or caregivers to ESRD patients that represent the ethnic diversity, geographic distribution and treatment modalities of the ESRD population in Texas. PAC members work with the Network 14 staff and Medicare to improve the quality of care and quality of life for ESRD patients. If you are interested in serving on the PAC and becoming a voice for the ESRD community, please contact Debbie O’Daniel via email at debbie.odaniel@allianthealth.org or by phone at 1-877-886-4435. You can also submit an application along with two letters of recommendation (members of your healthcare team or family members or friends) by mail (ESRD Network of Texas, 4099 McEwen Rd. #820, Dallas, TX 75244) or fax (972-503-3219). For a copy of the Application go to our website at [https://www.esrdnetwork.org/patients-families/pfcc](https://www.esrdnetwork.org/patients-families/pfcc), PAC Activities section, 2019-2020 Patient and Family SME Application Form. If you do not have access to a computer or fax machine, ask your facility Social Worker for assistance.
Contact Us!

Networks 8 and 14 are the End Stage Renal Disease Networks (ESRD) that serve as the Medicare contractor for the states of Alabama, Mississippi, Tennessee, and Texas. We are committed to improving the quality and experience of care for all ESRD kidney patients within our four-state patient services area.

Contact us:

Network 14 Office
4099 McEwen Rd, Ste. 820
Dallas, TX 75244
Phone: 972-503-3215
Email: nw14info@allianthealth.org
Website: https://www.esrdnetwork.org/

Visit our social media channels:

• Connect with us on LinkedIn
• Follow us on Twitter
• Follow us on Facebook

Click subscribe or scan the QR code to receive the ESRD Network E-newsletter

HOPE Quote: “Don’t be afraid to put yourself first... think about what you need.” - T. Fisher

Created under CMS contract number: HHSM-500-2016-NW014C

To file a grievance please contact ESRD Network of Texas (Network 14) at 1-877-886-4435 or ESRD Network of Texas, Inc. 4099 McEwen Rd, Ste. 820 Dallas, TX 75244. Office: 972-503-3215, fax: 972-503-3219, toll free: 877-886-4435, email: nw14info@allianthealth.org , website: www.esrdnetwork.org/