

## Kidney Disease and Kidney Transplant Facts

- Kidney failure occurs when the kidneys are no longer able to filter waste products from the blood, leading to a buildup of toxins in the body. High Blood Pressure and diabetes are the two main causes of kidney failure.
- Kidney disease can be caused by a variety of factors including diabetes, high blood pressure, infections, and genetic disorders.
- Symptoms of kidney disease may include fatigue, unexplained weight loss, nausea, vomiting, swelling of the legs and ankles, and changes in urination patterns.
- There are over 660,000 Americans being treated for kidney failure, also called End-Stage Renal Disease (ESRD). Of these, 468,000 are on dialysis and more than 193,000 have a functioning kidney transplant.
- Each year 100,000 people are newly diagnosed with stage 5 chronic kidney disease (CKD) which is the same as ESRD.
- About 30 million US adults are estimated to have CKD and most are undiagnosed.
- Close to 100,000 people in the U.S. are waiting for a kidney transplant.

### Medicare vs. Medicare Advantage

**Medicare:** Kidney failure treatment is partially covered under Medicare, which is a socialized medicine program in the US for people who are eligible.

**Medicare Advantage:** There are many other areas of government healthcare besides Medicare that are also covered. These include Medicaid, which provides healthcare coverage for low-income individuals, and the Veterans Health Administration, which provides healthcare coverage for veterans. Medicare Advantage is a type of private insurance program offered by insurance companies, approved, and regulated by the federal government. It's also known as Medicare Part C. The government pays a fixed amount to the insurance company for each person enrolled in the program, and the insurance company is responsible for providing all the Medicare benefits covered under Part A and Part B, as well as additional benefits.

