Kidney Chat: Ask a Social Worker

Kathy Merritt, LCSW
Thanks to our speaker!

Kathy Merritt, LCSW
- Social work services manager for Satellite Healthcare
- Over 30 years of clinical experience working in the outpatient hemodialysis setting
- Former co-chair of the CNSW of Northern California
The role of a social worker
Role of a social worker

Please describe 5 ways a social worker can assist a kidney patient.
Role of a social worker

Does a clinical social worker only become involved after a patient starts dialysis?

If so, why not before?
Role of a social worker

If you do home dialysis, do you still get social worker services?
Role of a social worker

Is it possible to have more than one social worker?
Role of a social worker

If I don’t find my social worker helpful, can I switch social workers? How?
Role of a social worker

What is the role of the social worker with family and caregivers?
Financial support for kidney disease
Financial support

Do I qualify for Medicare because of ESRD?

Yes! Check out the following resources:

- CMS – End-Stage Renal Disease
- CMS - Medicare Coverage of Kidney Dialysis & Kidney Transplant Services
Financial support

Do hospitals accept Medicare insurance?
Financial support

What are some financial assistance programs that are specifically for kidney patients?
Financial support

How can I get help with my copay?
Financial support

Are there resources that provide kidney patients with academic and employment support, such as tuition assistance funds, work programs, etc.?

- Ticket to Work program through Social Security: [https://www.ssa.gov/work/](https://www.ssa.gov/work/)
- Each state has a Department of Rehabilitation/Vocational services
Emotional support for you or your loved one with kidney disease
Emotional support

Can dialysis and transplant be difficult on a marriage?

How can couples protect their marriage during this challenging time?
Emotional support

I did not want to admit that I had kidney disease to myself or to others. Is that an expected reaction?

How can a social worker assist with these feelings?
Emotional support

How can the renal care team and caregivers help patients with mental health issues who are not following their treatment plan or going to healthcare appointments?
Other resources for kidney disease patients and caregivers
Other resources

What resources are available for caregivers?

• National Alliance for Caregivers: https://www.caregiving.org/resources/
Other resources

Where can I find out about assistance for funeral arrangements?
Thank you!
Submit your live questions now!
Join us for our next webinar!

Food Safety and Kidney Disease
Friday, November 15, 2019 from 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. EST

Join us to hear more about:
• Four Steps to Food Safety
• How to safely prepare meals for groups
• Special considerations for kidney patients

Go to www.KidneyFund.org/webinars to learn more and register!