

Welcome to the Saskatchewan Kidney Health Program.

The Saskatchewan Kidney Health Program is dedicated to providing the highest standard of care in an environment that supports independence, dignity, and respect.

Your Care Team

Your dialysis care is supported by a team of health care providers. This may include kidney doctors (nephrologists), dialysis nurses, social workers, pharmacists, dietitians, and learners such as students or medical residents. For health concerns not related to kidney disease, continue regular care with your family doctor or nurse practitioner.

Dialysis Care

When you start dialysis, a team of kidney doctors will be involved in your care. You may see different kidney doctors during treatments or clinic visits.

Dialysis Units

Dialysis is offered in several places across Saskatchewan. When you first start dialysis, your treatments will be in Saskatoon or Regina. Once your treatments are stable, you may be placed on a waiting list or moved to another dialysis unit in the province. These are called satellite units.

Dialysis unit placement is based on medical needs, safety, treatment schedules, and available space. Whenever possible, we work to keep your care close to home and consider individual requests.

The Saskatchewan Kidney Health Program is committed to:

- providing competently trained health-care providers
- encouraging you to be an active partner in your care
- providing a safe treatment environment for patients and staff
- supporting mutual respect and dignity for patients and staff
- when possible, providing treatments at a dialysis site closer to home when your kidney doctor feels that you are ready
- maintaining confidentiality
- encouraging and providing training for home dialysis care, as appropriate
- following up on missed dialysis treatments.
 - If a scheduled dialysis treatment is missed, attempts will be made to confirm safety. This may include contacting a health proxy, next of kin, or requesting a wellness check if needed.

Your Responsibilities as a Patient:

- Have a family doctor or nurse practitioner, if possible. If you need help finding one, let your kidney care team know.
- Arrive on time for dialysis treatment and clinic appointments.
- If you will be late or cannot attend an appointment, call the dialysis unit as soon as possible.
- Treat staff, other patients, and visitors with respect and dignity.
- Help keep everyone safe by treating others respectfully and not using threatening, verbal, or physical behaviour.

We understand that some responsibilities may be challenging at times. Your care team is here to help if you have questions or concerns.

Scheduling Treatments

Hemodialysis treatments are offered at various times and days of the week. We try to meet individual requests for treatment days and times whenever possible. Patients who travel long distances may be prioritized for mid-day appointments. This means that your spot (your regularly scheduled day and time) is not guaranteed, and you may be asked to change your schedule with minimal notice if required.

Attendance is very important while receiving hemodialysis. If you are unable to attend a scheduled appointment, you must call as soon as possible to let us know. Missing an appointment may mean we cannot reschedule you, which could negatively impact your health.

Support

We understand that starting dialysis is a big life change and can feel overwhelming for you and your loved ones. Dialysis is lifesaving, but it can also affect your time, energy, and daily routines.

If you are finding it hard to manage dialysis, please talk with your kidney health team. We can help connect you with support such as education, social work, or other resources.

Starting dialysis comes with many responsibilities, and it is normal to need time to adjust. Your life is about more than dialysis. We encourage you to keep focusing on the people, activities, and goals that are important to you. Our team is here to support your health while helping you maintain a balanced and meaningful life.

