

# Your First Hemodialysis Treatment

**SANFORD**  
HEALTH



# Welcome to Sanford Dialysis

This booklet will help you prepare for your first hemodialysis treatment at Sanford Health.

Your first hemodialysis treatment is scheduled on:

Date \_\_\_\_\_

At (time) \_\_\_\_\_

You should arrive at (time) \_\_\_\_\_

The addresses and phone numbers for the dialysis units are located at the back of this guide.

Please call the dialysis unit to confirm your time before you come. Ask any questions you may have. If you would like to tour the unit, please call for an appointment before your first treatment.

Plan to be at the dialysis center for 4 to 5 hours on the first day. This includes time for the required paperwork and your treatment.

Bring your family members with you to your first dialysis treatment. You and your family will have many questions. We will answer your questions and help you learn about kidney disease and dialysis.

## What Do I Need?

There are many papers and forms to fill out before treatment.

Please come early and bring:

- Your insurance cards
- Copy of advanced directives (living will or durable power of attorney for healthcare)
- A current list of your medications and pill bottles

Wear clothes that are loose fitting and will allow the staff to get to your dialysis access.

Many patients feel chilled during dialysis. It is a good idea to bring a blanket with you. You may also bring a pillow if you would like.

Televisions are available at each dialysis station. You may bring reading material, a CD player, or IPod if you wish. Electronic equipment must run on battery power.

## What Else Do I Need to Know?

There is much to learn about kidney disease!

You will learn how to take care of yourself, your dialysis access, and your diet. Please let your nurse know if you have any questions.

# Who Will Help Me?

- Nurses and dialysis technicians will teach you about kidney disease and your treatment.
- Dietitians will monitor your labs and teach you about healthy food choices.
- Pharmacists will monitor your medications.
- Social workers will provide support to help you cope with the stresses of kidney disease. They can give information on financial resources that may help you.
- Nephrologists and physician's assistants will oversee and manage your care.



# Will Dialysis Help Me Feel Better?

Yes. Patients usually start to feel better within 1 to 2 weeks of starting dialysis. That does not mean your kidneys are working and getting better. That means the dialysis treatments are cleaning your blood. You feel better without the wastes and extra fluid in your blood.

Most patients feel tired after dialysis. You may need to rest or take a nap when you get home. The tired feeling should get better as wastes are removed through regular dialysis treatments.

## What Else Can I Do?

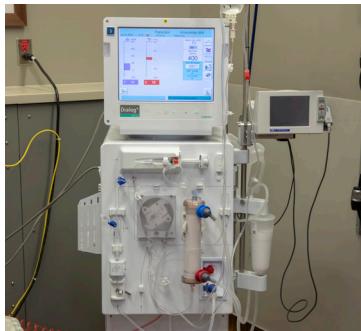
It is important that you do not miss any dialysis treatments. Dialysis treatments lower fluid and waste levels in your body. That is why you feel better.

It is hard to go to dialysis when you are not feeling well, but this is when you need it most. Be sure to call the dialysis unit before your appointment if you are unable to come for treatment.

It can be hard to follow the diet and fluid limits. It is important that your body gets the nutrients you need but does not get too much. Our dietitians will teach you good kidney disease nutrition and give you diet tips.

# What is Hemodialysis?

Hemodialysis is a treatment for kidney failure. Your blood is cleaned with an artificial kidney and dialysis machine. Dialysis takes out the extra fluid and waste products that the kidneys cannot. Most people have 3 treatments every week.



## Will Dialysis Cure Kidney Disease?

In most cases **dialysis is a treatment option and not a cure** for kidney disease. There are 2 types of kidney disease: chronic, also called CKD 5, and acute. While both can make your kidneys stop working, they are very different.

**Chronic kidney disease stage 5 is the most common** reason for loss of kidney function. It is a slow process that is often caused by diabetes or high blood pressure. Dialysis will not cure chronic kidney failure. The **damage to the kidney is permanent and life long**. Dialysis is needed to remove fluids and wastes that the kidneys cannot. Patients with chronic kidney failure must receive dialysis treatments or a kidney transplant to live.

Acute kidney failure happens quickly. It often occurs after an injury, surgery, or exposure to a toxic substance. Acute kidney failure may get better with dialysis treatments. Dialysis gives the kidneys a chance to heal and start working again. Sometimes, acute kidney failure does not get better and patients need dialysis for the rest of their lives.

# What Will Happen at Dialysis?

After all the paperwork is done, the staff members will check your temperature, pulse and blood pressure. You will be weighed before every treatment. The staff will look for swelling in your feet and listen to your heart and lungs. This is how we tell how much fluid needs to be removed during the treatment.

The staff will then connect you to the artificial kidney machine that cleans your blood. The doctor orders how long your treatment lasts. It is usually 3 to 4 hours. Your blood may be tested before or after your treatment. The staff will continue to monitor your vital signs while the dialysis machine cleans your blood.

After the treatment, the staff will check your blood pressure and temperature. You or a staff member will hold pressure when the needles are removed until the bleeding stops. You will be weighed again to tell how much fluid was removed.



# How Will I Feel During Dialysis?

You may get cold or chilled during dialysis. This is because your blood is being cleaned with the artificial kidney. A blanket may help to keep you warm. You can bring a blanket with you to your dialysis treatments.

You may be comfortable and sleep during their dialysis treatment. But, as the extra fluid is being removed, you may have symptoms caused by low blood pressure.

## What Do I Need to Tell the Staff?

Report any of these symptoms to a staff member as soon as possible:

- Nausea and vomiting
- Sweating or sudden warm feeling
- Yawning (more or differently than your normal yawning)
- Anxiousness or sudden nervousness
- Dizziness or lightheadedness
- Muscle cramps
- Chest or back pain

A staff member can take actions to help you feel better.

# Helpful Websites

There are many websites with dialysis information. Here are some websites that may be helpful to you. This list is provided for your own use. Other resources do not replace medical care. Be sure to ask your care team members any questions you may have.

## **Kidney School**

[kidneyschool.org](http://kidneyschool.org)

Kidney School is a great website for patients, families, and professionals. There are short learning modules that can be read online or downloaded and printed. The modules are available in an audio format, too. The site is easy to use and the information is easy to understand. Some information is available in Spanish.

## **National Kidney Foundation (NKF)**

[kidney.org](http://kidney.org)

The NKF is a national organization. They work to prevent kidney disease and improve the health of people with kidney disease. There are many patient education resources available and easy to find. Start at the Kidney Disease or Patients tab at the top of the page. Look at the Kidney Kitchen tab to find good recipes. NKF has a lot of professional information including regulations and standards. Some information is available in Spanish.

## **Life Options**

[lifeoptions.org](http://lifeoptions.org)

Life Options is a program that helps people live a long time with kidney disease. There are many patient education resources available. Free material includes audio and video presentations. Many things can be downloaded and printed. It has a glossary that is easy to understand.

# Area Dialysis Locations

## Iowa

### Hospers

112 Sunrise Drive  
Hospers, IA 51238  
Hemodialysis ..... (712) 752-8330

## Minnesota

### Bemidji

1300 Anne Street NW  
Bemidji, MN 56601  
Hemodialysis ..... (218) 333-5460  
Home dialysis office ..... (218) 333-6370

### Canby

112 St Olaf Avenue S  
Canby, MN 56220  
Hemodialysis ..... (507) 223-7277  
ext. 162

### Detroit Lakes

1234 Suite B Washington Ave  
Detroit Lakes MN 56501  
Hemodialysis and Home dialysis offices ..... (218) 846-2200

# Area Dialysis Locations

## **Morris**

Stevens Community Medical Center  
400 E. 1st Street  
Morris, MN 56278 .....(320) 589-2832

## **Red Lake**

Indian Health Services Hospital  
23990 State Highway 1 East  
Red Lake, MN 56671 .....(218) 679-3117

Located in Indian Health Services  
(IHS) Hospital in Red Lake, MN  
Only Native American patients per IHS

## **Thief River Falls**

120 Labree Avenue S.  
Thief River Falls, MN 56701  
Hemodialysis .....(218) 683-4246  
Home dialysis .....(218) 683-4248

## **White Earth Dialysis**

26246 Crane Rd.  
White Earth, MN 56591 .....(218) 983-4699

## **Worthington**

1018 6th Avenue  
Worthington, MN 56187  
Hemodialysis .....(507) 372-3279

# Area Dialysis Locations

## **North Dakota**

### **Bismarck**

209 N. 7th Street

Bismarck, ND 58501

Hemodialysis and Home Dialysis .....(701) 323-2800

### **Fargo**

2801 University Drive S.

Fargo, North Dakota 58103

Hemodialysis .....(701) 234-8400

Home dialysis .....(701) 234-8410

Toll Free .....(888) 749-3447

### **Fort Yates**

10 N. River Road, Box J

Fort Yates, ND 58538

Hemodialysis .....(701) 854-8254

### **Jamestown**

300 Second Avenue NE

Jamestown, ND 58401

Hemodialysis and Home Dialysis .....(701) 952-4872

# Area Dialysis Locations

## **South Dakota**

### **Chamberlain**

300 S Byron Blvd  
Chamberlain, SD 57325  
Hemodialysis ..... **(605) 234-7273**

### **Madison**

323 10th Street SW  
Madison, SD 57042  
Hemodialysis ..... **(605) 256-8870**

### **Sioux Falls**

1321 West 22nd Street, Suite 201  
Sioux Falls, SD 57105  
Hemodialysis ..... **(605) 404-4300**  
Home dialysis ..... **(605) 333-7443**

## Notes

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This information is not intended as a substitute for professional medical care.  
Always follow your health care provider's instructions.

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