

# GAO: U.S. government invests < 1% of Medicare kidney care costs in kidney research

## Greater research investment needed to reduce costs, improve outcomes

### Key Takeaways from GAO report data:

- ✓ NIH investments equal **<1% of the cost of care<sup>1</sup>**
- ✓ **\$32.8 billion**  
Medicare kidney failure patient costs<sup>1</sup>
- ✓ **\$564 million**  
NIH investments in kidney research<sup>1</sup>

### Solution: Greater investment in kidney research

- ✓ **Special Kidney Program for NIDDK: \$150 million/year for 10 years**  
Dedicated new kidney research funding
- ✓ **\$2 billion increase for NIH**  
Above FY2017 funding including  
At least a proportional increase for NIDDK

## Investment in Research Leads to Cures

### GAO Report: Disease Prevalence vs. NIH Research Investments

Disease	NIH Investment Per Patient	Breakthrough Therapy Case Study
HIV/AIDS	\$2,500.08	Development of antiretroviral drugs means that HIV/AIDS, once fatal, is now a manageable chronic condition
Cancer	\$371.66	Breakthroughs in genomics have supported the development of individualized therapies that target cancer on a genetic level
Heart Disease	\$133.30	Creation of the Total Artificial Heart keeps heart failure patients alive with a fully implantable device
<b>Kidney Disease</b>	<b>\$13.94</b>	<b>Most patients with kidney failure rely on hemodialysis, a treatment pioneered in the 1960s</b>

1.] USRDS 2016.

2.] Government Accountability Office, January 18, 2017. "Kidney Disease Research Funding and Priority Setting."

3.] NIH Investment Per Patient derived from GAO data on spending by disease category and disease prevalence estimates