

2008 Legislative Priorities for the ASN

The American Society of Nephrology (ASN) represents physicians who specialize in kidney disease and is leading efforts to improve research and education. Kidney disease is serious, harmful and far more common than people think. Up to 26 million people in the U.S. have some form of kidney disease – that is one in every nine adult Americans.

Research Funding

- Increased funding for kidney disease research. We recommend an annual 6.7%* increase in funding for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the National Institute for Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Disease (NIDDK).
- We recommend legislative language calling for increased funding for clinical trials in kidney disease. We also recommend language fostering ongoing collaboration between NIDDK and other NIH institutes including the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI), the National Institute on Aging (NIA), the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease (NAIAD), and the National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering (NIBIB).

Medicare Coverage Advanced Chronic Kidney Disease

Extension of Medicare coverage to patients with advanced (stage 4-5) chronic kidney disease for the following services:

- Educational services about dialysis and transplant options, including counseling to prepare for the financial and emotional issues associated with kidney failure
- Payment for multidisciplinary chronic kidney disease (CKD) in CKD clinics, an additional annual payment for demonstrated interaction with Primary Care Providers (PCPs) and achievement of quality indicators.
- Access to transplant evaluation
- Placement of vascular access in anticipation of the need for hemodialysis

Enhanced Funding for the CDC CKD Program

Enhanced funding for the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) CKD Program, coupled with language encouraging cooperation between the National Kidney Disease Education Program (NKDEP) and the CDC program.

ASN Supports the Following Legislation:

- Kidney Care Quality and Education Act of 2007 (H.R. 1193, S. 691)
- Kidney Disease Educational Benefits Act of 2007 (H.R. 1245, S.432)
- Comprehensive Immunosuppressive Drug Coverage for Kidney Transplant Patients Act of 2007 (H.R. 3282, S. 2320)
- Sustainable Growth Rate (SGR) Fix

*Figure is the Ad-Hoc Group for Medical Research, FASEB, and Coalition for Health Care Funding task force recommendation for Fiscal Year 2009 – medical inflation (Bird-Pie 3.6 or 3.7 percent) + 3 percent. ASN is a member of the both the Ad-Hoc Group for Medical Research and the Coalition for Health Care Funding.

For more information about the ASN or kidney disease, visit www.asn-online.org or call 202-659-0599.

