

American Society of Nephrology Health Care Reform Guiding Principles

ASN leads the fight against kidney diseases, representing nearly 17,000 physicians, scientists, nurses, and other health professionals dedicated to treating and studying these diseases to improve the lives of people they affect.

- 1) **Provide access to affordable care for all Americans**
Patients with kidney diseases are some of the most vulnerable members of society with a high likelihood of co-morbidities and limited access to care.
- 2) **Protect the integrity of the patient-physician relationship**
Patients should have the freedom to choose their physician; ensuring that patients have choices among health insurance providers is, for many patients, an important aspect of that goal, and it is an important aspect patient-centered care.
- 3) **Emphasize access to evidence-based screening, detection, and preventive care**
Early detection and treatment is cost-effective. These services lead to saving and improving the lives of millions of Americans at risk for kidney failure and, ultimately, save Medicare billions of dollars in costly dialysis.
- 4) **Guarantee access to care for Americans with pre-existing conditions**
Nephrology health professionals have committed their lives to keeping patients healthy and to restoring them to health when they become ill; insurers should not be permitted to limit care only to the healthiest Americans.
- 5) **Encourage development of innovative, cost-efficient, physician-driven care delivery models**
Support physician-led efforts to test models that promote collaboration and provide comprehensive patient-centered care, especially for patients with costly chronic conditions like advanced kidney disease.
- 6) **Ensure predictable, continuous access to immunosuppressant drugs for transplant recipients**
Guarantee that every transplant patient will have uninterrupted lifelong access to the medications critical to preserving function of their transplanted kidney.
- 7) **Support policies to facilitate kidney transplantation and organ donation**
Kidney transplantation is the optimal and most cost-effective therapy for many kidney failure patients; use all measures to promote organ donation and transplantation; protect living donors must be from discrimination by insurers; and allow patients under 26 years of age to remain on their parents' insurance.

Improving the health of the nation critically depends on discovery and innovation. The society strongly supports robust investments in medical research to develop cures and technologies that improve the lives of Americans and reduce costs. ASN believes the Kidney Precision Medicine Project offers unprecedented potential to achieve each of these important goals. The society has also committed the first \$7 million to launch a prize competition incentivizing the development of novel technologies for renal replacement therapy to improve quality of life for patients with kidney diseases.