

Ensure Patients with Kidney Disease Receive the Highest Quality of Care, Including Equitable Access to Kidney Doctors in New Care Delivery Models

Kidney disease care, particularly dialysis, is complex and costly:

- Diabetes and heart disease are the two leading causes of kidney failure.
- Seeing a nephrologist before starting dialysis leads to better patient outcomes, but 44% of people starting dialysis have not been treated by a nephrologist before.
- The End-Stage Renal Disease Program accounts for 6.6% of the Medicare Budget.

ASN believes that greater kidney care coordination, including in the context of an Accountable Care Organization, could generate cost-savings and better patient outcomes.

ASN asks you to ensure that any new care delivery models:

- Guarantee that patients with kidney disease have equitable access to nephrology care.
- Maintain the relationship between patients and physicians.
- Provide patient-centered care based on scientific evidence.

Patients who saw a nephrologist 5 or more times in the year before starting dialysis have a **28% lower risk for death compared with those who had one or no nephrologist visits.**