

# Checklist to help you choose a dialysis facility.

## Finding dialysis facilities that are an option for you

**Ask your kidney doctor:**

- What type of dialysis would you recommend, and why?

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- Which dialysis facilities do you refer people to?

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- Which dialysis facility do you suggest, and why?

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- What other dialysis facilities are in this area?

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- Can you tell me about getting dialysis at home?

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- What can you tell me about kidney transplants?

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- Look at the information on dialysis facility quality on Medicare.gov.

- Decide which dialysis facilities you want to visit and learn more about, and make plans to go.

## During your visit at a dialysis facility

**Take a careful look around the dialysis facility. You may want to think through these questions:**

- Is this dialysis facility conveniently located for you? (e.g., close to home, work, etc.)

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- How easy is parking at the dialysis facility? Do you have to pay for parking?

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- How far do you have to walk from the drop-off area to the front door of the facility?

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- How is the temperature in the dialysis treatment room? Is it warm or cold?

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- Is the facility handicapped accessible?

 Yes No

- Is the dialysis facility clean?

 Yes No

- Are there up-to-date patient education materials in the dialysis facility's waiting room?

 Yes No

- Does the dialysis facility's staff seem friendly, caring, and respectful of patients?

 Yes No

- Are you offered a tour of the dialysis facility?

 Yes No

- Were you given the opportunity to talk to patients?

 Yes No

## During your visit at a dialysis facility (continued)

### Ask the dialysis facility staff for some basic information:

- What hours are you open? Does that change during the holidays?

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- What kind of security do you have at the facility?

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- What's the facility's visitor policy visitors' policy?

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- What's the policy on eating while getting dialysis?

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- Is there WiFi or a TV available?

 Yes No

- Does this facility offer home dialysis options?

 Yes No

## During your visit at a dialysis facility (continued)

### Ask the dialysis facility about their staff and operations:

- How many nurses and technicians work on each shift at this dialysis facility? How many patients do they take care of at a time?

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- What other staff will help with my care?

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- If I have a concern about my care, who do I talk to?

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- Who should I call to find out if this dialysis facility has closed due to bad weather?

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- If I need help when the dialysis facility is closed, who do I call?

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- How can the dialysis facility help if I have a medical emergency?

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## During your visit at a dialysis facility (continued)

**Ask the dialysis facility staff about other resources available at the dialysis facility:**

- Can you help me if I have transportation problems?

Yes

No

- Are there patient support resources?

Yes

No

- What kind of education do you offer patients and their families?

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