

# Information Sheet

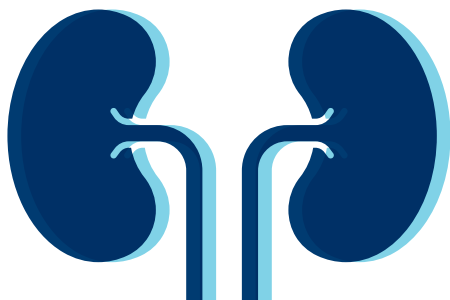


The mission of the [National Center for Healthcare Advancement and Partnerships \(HAP\)](#) is to serve as a trusted resource and a catalyst for the growth of effective partnerships at the national, state, and community level. HAP advances the health and well-being of Veterans through the exploration of innovative, safe, and ethical emerging therapies.

## Kidney Disease

Kidney disease, often referred to as the “silent killer,” can develop in its early stages without showing physical symptoms. Chronic kidney disease (CKD) emerges when the kidneys sustain damage, losing their ability to effectively filter waste and fluids from the blood. [CKD ranks as the ninth leading cause of death in the U.S.](#) Although kidney disease affects all demographics, certain risk factors such as heart disease, diabetes, high blood pressure, age, ethnicity, and a family history of kidney failure increase the risk.

The National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases reveals that the prevalence of kidney disease among Veterans surpasses that of the general population by approximately 34%. Presently, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) serves around 600,000 Veterans grappling with kidney disease, with more than 40,000 enrolled Veterans enduring kidney failure.



## Partnership Overview

In 2020, the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) joined forces with the [American Kidney Fund](#) to address kidney disease within the Veteran community. The partnership, which is facilitated by the HAP, focuses on refining kidney disease educational materials and crafting resources and programs tailored to support Veterans, their families, and caregivers.

From downloadable guides that summarize kidney disease to recorded educational webinars and informative infographics, the partnership has various resources to help Veterans prevent and manage kidney disease.

- Veteran benefits guide: [A guide to benefits](#) for Veterans with kidney disease helps Veterans who may be eligible for an AKF grant or financial assistance.
- Managing kidney disease guide: A [guide](#) to help Veterans talk to their providers about managing the disease.
- Recorded sessions from AKF’s annual Kidney Action Week: [“Coffee Chat with the Veterans Health Administration”](#) and [“Veterans, Kidney Disease and Diabetes: The Mounting Mental Health Burdens of Managing Chronic Disease.”](#)

## VA's Roles and Resources

VA provides support and care for Veterans with kidney disease, ensuring their well-being and quality of life. Through educational materials and a range of resources to support kidney health, Veterans receive assistance to manage kidney disease effectively.

- VA has a webpage with [resources to support kidney health](#).
- VA's [National Center for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention](#) offers healthy living advice to help slow down diabetes and high blood pressure and prevent kidney disease from worsening.
- [VA Kidney Disease and Dialysis Services Fact Sheet](#) gives an overview of VA kidney services and lists virtual tools for Veterans with CKD.



## AKF Roles and Resources

AKF supports Americans with kidney disease and advocates on behalf of millions at risk. In tandem with supporting kidney disease patients, AKF has also developed resources and programs to support Veterans, their families, and caregivers.

- A [page on their website tailored to Veterans with kidney disease](#).
- AKF's [Know Your Kidneys](#) videos provide helpful tips to prevent kidney disease.
- AKF provides a [library of educational content](#), including webinars and infographics.
- AKF provides nutritional advice through [Kidney Kitchen](#).

## Empowering Veterans with Kidney Disease

While kidney damage is irreversible, a comprehensive treatment plan involving healthy lifestyle choices, diligent monitoring of kidney health, and medical care can significantly enhance the quality of life for Veterans with kidney disease. The collaboration between AKF and VHA continues to explore programs covering crucial aspects of kidney disease, such as prevention, management, nutrition, research, and addressing health disparities.

To learn more about VHA partnerships, visit <https://www.va.gov/healthpartnerships/>.

To learn more about AKF, visit <https://www.kidneyfund.org/>.

VA



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Veterans Health Administration  
National Center for Healthcare  
Advancement and Partnerships