

# The Kidney Foundation Of Canada BC Branch



## Programs and Services



## ■ Information and Referral

While Foundation volunteers and staff cannot give direct medical advice, they can provide valuable information on kidney disease and its treatment, as well as referrals to appropriate community agencies and resources.





## Living with Kidney Disease



## ■ Educational Material

*Living with Kidney Disease* manual is a comprehensive source of information on how kidneys work, different types of kidney disease, treatment options, eating for health and more. It is published in English, French, Italian, Chinese and Punjabi.

These manuals are distributed through renal units and nephrologists' offices.

The Foundation also produces a series of educational brochures and fact sheets. A complete listing is available on the Foundation's Web site at [www.kidney.ca](http://www.kidney.ca).

All of these materials are provided free of charge.



## Short-Term Financial Assistance

- Short-term and emergency financial assistance may be available to cover sudden and unexpected expenses incurred by a kidney patient.
- This assistance is provided only when all other sources of funding have been exhausted. Patients must meet a financial criteria to qualify.
- All grant requests must come through renal social workers



## ■ KIDNEY CONNECT Peer Support Program

- This is a telephone-based peer support program designed to provide the kind of one-to-one support a renal patient or their family may need.
- Patients or family members in this program are paired with trained volunteers who have had their own first-hand experience coping with kidney disease.
- These volunteers help others learn about, and cope with, the practical lifestyle and emotional realities of kidney disease.



# Kidney Suites

Anyone receiving a kidney transplant in BC must come to Vancouver for surgery and stay there about 2 months post-transplant for follow-up clinic visits

To ease the financial burden, The Kidney Foundation offers 4 furnished suites in Vancouver that are available for free or for \$25 per night, depending upon the patient's ability to pay.

In exceptional cases, patients who are in Vancouver to train for dialysis may be allowed to stay in a kidney suite.









## Family Kidney Suite

The only place in BC for a child to receive hemodialysis is at BC Children's Hospital in Vancouver. Generally these children need to stay in Vancouver until they receive a kidney transplant.

- The Kidney Foundation provides a furnished, 3 bedroom townhouse, free of charge for families to use under these circumstances.





- Kidney Camp for Kids

- Zajac Ranch in Mission.

This is a full medical camp with horses, canoes, kayaks, indoor pool, archery, ropes course etc.

There is no cost to children or their families for camp or for transportation to camp from anywhere in the province



We also sponsor campers to go to the Young Adult Camp and the Leadership Camp.







# LODERP

The Living Organ Donor Expense Reimbursement Program provides financial reimbursement to those who have incurred expenses related to being a living kidney or liver donor.

Typically, donors can be reimbursed for travel, accommodations, meals, parking and loss of income due to the surgery and recovery period.

- We are now offering reimbursement for Companion Travel for those in the Paired Exchange program.



# Targeted Screening

Targeted screening events are being offered throughout BC to those who fall into a risk category for kidney disease.

Targeted events are held in community settings and include the following tests:

Blood pressure, blood sugar, body mass index, urinalysis, creatinine and eGFR.

There is no cost to the participant



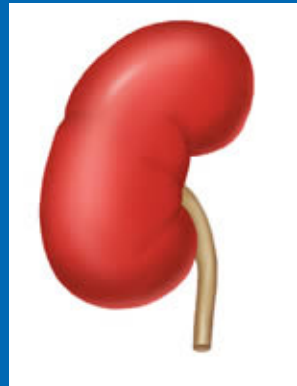


a handheld medical device called a StatSensor is used for creatinine and eGFR – results are forthcoming within 30 seconds.



# Organ Donation Awareness

- Part of the mandate of the Kidney Foundation is to promote organ donation awareness. Only 19% of British Columbians have registered to be organ donors.
- We train volunteers to go into the community to present on this topic.



# Comfort Items



The BC Branch provides items to renal units like ice machines, blanket warmers, waiting room chairs, TVs etc.

- They also provide petty cash for renal social workers to use for minor items for patients like taxi vouchers, meal tickets, celebrations, etc.
- In some community units coffee, tea and cookies are served to those who are dialyzing.



- Public Health Fairs and Information Sessions

Volunteers man booths at public events in order to educate about kidney disease.



# Chapters

- The BC Branch of the Kidney Foundation is reliant upon the incredible work of volunteers throughout BC.
- There are chapters in all 5 Health Authorities who get the word out about kidney health and provide events and services for kidney patients and their families.









# The BC Branch publishes two newsletters throughout the year.

**Kidney News** is designed to inform kidney patients about health issues and activities around BC.



# Living Well

This publication comes out twice a year and offers articles about Kidney Disease prevention.



# Sidney the Kidney

