

National Kidney Foundation®

Launch of the Advancing American Kidney Health Initiative

July 18, 2019

On July 10, 2019, the Trump administration took a series of actions to advance kidney care in the United States. This included releasing a [report](#), *Advancing American Kidney Health*, and signing an [Executive Order](#) of the same name. The Executive Order (EO) states that it is the policy of the United States to

- prevent kidney failure through better diagnosis, treatment, and incentives for preventative care,
- increase patient choice of treatments for kidney failure,
- encourage the development of the artificial kidney, and,
- increase access to kidney transplants.

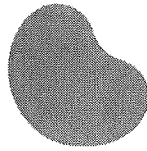
In the *Advancing American Kidney Health* report, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) sets three broad goals for delivering on this policy:

1. Reduce the number of Americans developing End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) by 25% by 2030 through improved efforts to prevent, detect, and slow the progression of kidney disease.
2. Aim for 80% of new ESRD patients to receive dialysis at home or receive a transplant by 2025.
3. Aim to double the number of kidneys available for transplant by 2030.

Advancing American Kidney Health offers a detailed roadmap for how HHS will work toward achieving these goals. The Executive Order lays out timelines for actions that the federal government will take to achieve the goal of transforming how kidney disease is prevented and treated. These include:

- launching a kidney disease awareness initiative within 120 days,
- taking steps to promote the development of a wearable or implantable artificial kidney within 120 days,
- proposing new regulations for the oversight of Organ Procurement Organizations (OPOs) within 90 days,
- streamlining the process of kidney matching to reduce discards within 180 days, and,
- proposing new regulations to remove barriers to living organ donation within 90 days.

NKF had significant influence over the policies announced on July 10 in *Advancing American Kidney Health* and in the Executive Order as demonstrated by the alignment of the initiative with NKF's public policy priorities in areas of improving kidney disease awareness, promoting early



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detection to slow progression, reducing the demand of dialysis, ensuring that patients can choose the treatment modality that best suits their preferences, and maximizing the use of donated kidneys including less than perfect kidneys. In the section of *Advancing American Kidney Health* on increasing access to kidney transplants, HHS notes that HRSA, through OPTN, is following recommendations from the National Kidney Foundation Consensus Conference to Decrease Kidney Discards as it develops and tests a proof of concept for expediting allocation of kidneys at high risk for discard with safety monitoring.

Among the kidney care policies announced by the administration on July 10 were five new payment models that will create financial incentives for dialysis facilities, nephrologists, and other healthcare providers to improve how they manage chronic kidney disease (CKD) and end-stage renal disease (ESRD) in Medicare patients. In general, payment models tie the payment that healthcare providers receive to the value of the care they provide. The intent of payment models is to provide better care that's less expensive. The recently announced kidney care payment models are aimed at achieving higher rates of home dialysis and transplantation, while also encouraging healthcare providers to meet other objectives that are important to patients, like improving care coordination and delaying the start of dialysis.

Next Steps

The National Kidney Foundation (NKF) has long advocated for changes to the Medicare program that would help ensure that ESRD patients can access the full range of treatment options for kidney failure, including kidney transplant, which is the preferred option for most patients. NKF will be carefully evaluating the details of the payment models to ensure that patients receive the quality of care and treatment choice they desire. We will share our feedback with CMS, but first we want to hear from you. Please email miriam.godwin@kidney.org with your questions and thoughts.