

Kidney replacement treatments: What you need to know

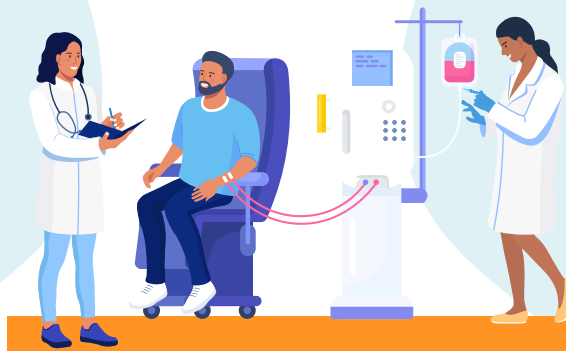
When kidneys stop working, consider these treatment options to stay healthy.

Several treatment options can help keep you healthy when your kidneys stop working. Renal replacement therapy (RRT) can do the job of the kidneys.

There are 3 types of RRT: hemodialysis, peritoneal dialysis, and kidney transplant

Hemodialysis (HD)

- A machine cleans your blood
- Done in a clinic or at home
- Requires surgery to create a blood access point



PREPARING FOR DIALYSIS

Before you start dialysis, doctors need to make a way to connect your body to the dialysis machine. Here are the ways to do that, along with the pros and cons of each.

Hemodialysis access

- **AV fistula:** Long-lasting, fewer problems
- **AV graft:** Heals faster, may not last as long
- **CVC (central line):** Temporary, higher risk of infection

Peritoneal dialysis (PD)

- Uses your stomach lining and special fluid to clean blood
- Done at home
- Requires a soft tube placed in your stomach



Peritoneal dialysis access

Tube placed in stomach through minor surgery

Kidney transplant

- A healthy kidney is placed into your body
- From a living or deceased donor
- Lifelong medicine required
- Not everyone is eligible



What's right for you?

Talk with your health care team and ask questions. They'll help you choose the best treatment for your body, your lifestyle, and your needs. It's also okay to decide not to start or to stop RRT if that's what's right for you.