

Research & Innovation

MAKING LIFE BETTER FOR EVERY PATIENT EVERY DAY

Our purpose is to create a future worth living for patients. Worldwide. Every day.

More than 35 million adults in the United States have chronic kidney disease (CKD). Last year, kidney disease was the 9th leading cause of death in the U.S. At Fresenius Medical Care, we are working to change what the future looks like for kidney patients today and tomorrow.

We have invested more than \$1 billion over the past five years in R&D activities aimed at expanding knowledge and improving treatment options for kidney disease.

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SOME EXAMPLES OF OUR WORK INCLUDE



Enabling the Promise of Genomic Medicine

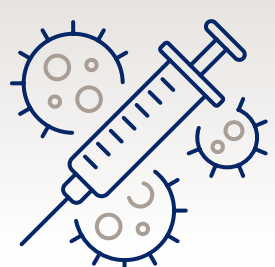
We are creating the world's largest renal-focused genomic registry. By collecting medical and biological information from thousands of individuals, the registry will help close a critical gap in genomic research and enable kidney patients to benefit from the possibilities of genomic and precision medicine.

To date, nephrology has been under-represented in clinical research, even as rapid progress in gene sequencing and analysis has led to advances in precision medicine and individualized care in treating cancer, heart disease and other medical conditions.

Making Home Dialysis Easier

Fresenius Medical Care has long been the industry innovator for home dialysis, launching first-of-their-kind home training programs and using technology to help improve equitable access to patients who prefer dialyzing at home.

Receiving in-clinic dialysis treatment can be particularly burdensome for rural patients who might have to travel a long distance for that care. Fresenius Medical Care/ Fresenius Kidney Care is partnering with the Mississippi Department of Health to use immersive virtual reality technology to educate patients in rural Mississippi on the benefits of home therapy.



Advancing Equity and Access

During the COVID-19 pandemic, and in partnership with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC), we used our clinics to provide COVID vaccinations to our patients and supported smaller dialysis companies in doing the same. In 2021, we administered more than 270,000 COVID-19 vaccines and boosters to the dialysis community. This effort improved vaccine coverage and was also shown to meaningfully bridge racial gaps and improve access among Hispanic, Black and Asian patients — highlighting the role that dialysis clinics can and do play in advancing equitable access.

“Higher proportions of racial and ethnic minority patients than non-Hispanic White patients received vaccination in a dialysis clinic, suggesting that offering vaccines in a convenient location by a trusted source was particularly beneficial to these groups. Few other strategies have demonstrated reductions in vaccination disparities.”

[JAMA Intern Med. April 4, 2022](#)

Streamlining the Kidney Transplant Referral Process

We worked with the transplant community to understand how we can be a better partner and, as a result, reimagined, streamlined and improved the transplant referral process. Launched clinic-wide in April 2023, our transplant referral IT platform provides curated clinical and demographic data to transplant centers, designed to save those centers time and effort from chasing needed patient records for evaluation.

The early results are very promising, showing an increase in completed referrals and supporting the goal of increasing access to kidney transplantation. We will continue to refine our platform with feedback from our partners and work to expand its use industrywide.



“Our staff LOVE this referral ... We barely if at all need to seek additional information ... thank you for your efforts at being a better provider.”

Early feedback from a transplant center.



Pioneering Better Ways to Provide Care

We are using our breadth and depth of expertise to innovate the provision of kidney care in ways that benefit patients, reduce the burden on the healthcare system and lower the cost of care. We formed Interwell Health to focus on value-based care through higher engagement and smarter use of technology and data.