

Online and Telephone Support Group Resources

The websites listed below specialize in kidney disease. Many offer education, as well as the opportunity to connect with other end stage renal disease (ESRD) patients, family members, and/or caregivers through discussion forums and subscription-based email lists. When looking for resources, please be aware that anyone can create a website and only visit reputable sites! When searching, use keywords such as “kidney disease” or “dialysis” to find related groups.

When in doubt, always consult your healthcare team.

American Association of Kidney Patients (AAKP) Community

<https://aakp.org/?s=support+groups>

AAKP recognizes the value of local patient support groups. Through its website and various publications, the AAKP Community provides a centralized resource to locate ESRD support groups within patients’ communities.

Helparound Application, NXStage

http://helparound.co/communities/nxstage?pid=nxstage_facebook_organic&c=diabetes_month&utm_content=buffer18ca8&utm_medium=facebook&utm_source=home&utm_campaign=buffer

Helparound assists chronic kidney disease patients and their support systems, overwhelmed by a life-changing condition, to simplify the day-to-day of management of dialysis treatment. NXStage delivers information and support resources as needed, when needed, via smartphone.

Home Dialysis Central Forums

<http://forums.homedialysis.org/>

Home Dialysis Central is a is an online discussion forum and one-stop resource for patients and professionals who want to learn more about home dialysis options—what they are, where they can be found, and why someone might want to choose one over another. Patients, family members, and caregivers can get advice from experts or other members of the home dialysis community, or they can share their knowledge with others.

Home Dialysis Central Discussion Group on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/HomeDialysisCentral/>

This is a moderated private Facebook group. Individuals can ask anything without concern. Group members are kind, smart, helpful, and respectful. They welcome dialyzers, caregivers, and others for support, information, and help coming to grips with dialysis in all of its forms.

National Kidney Foundation (NKF) of Hawaii

<https://kidneyhi.org/ask-the-dietitian-blog>

<https://www.facebook.com/KidneyHI/>

NKF Hawaii's Facebook page offers information about events, education, and access to an online ESRD community. Their "Ask the Dietitian" blog allows individuals to post questions and receive important nutritional information for people who have kidney disease from informed sources in an informal manner.

Nephkids Cyber-Support Group

<http://cybernephrology.ualberta.ca/nephkids/>

Nephkids is cyber-support group for parents of children with CKD. It offers an interactive email group (listserve) for parents of children with all types of chronic kidney disease.

NKF Peers Lending Support 1. 855.653.7337 (1.855.NKF.PEER)

<http://www.kidney.org/patients/Peers/>

This NKF website is specifically for a new patients who need support and want to connect with peers who "have been there."

Renal Support Network (RSN) HOPEline 1.800.579.1970

<http://www.rsnhope.org/>

<https://www.facebook.com/RSNhope/>

The RSN website empowers people who have kidney disease to become knowledgeable about their illness, proactive in their care, hopeful about their future, and to make friends through informative, patient-directed programs.

Yahoo Groups: <http://www.yahogroups.com>

Google Groups: <http://groups.google.com>