

Kidney Concerns

News for Kidney Patients and Their Families

Summer 2025

Informed, Empowered, Engaged

Welcome back to Kidney Concerns!

I'm Jeff Nelson, chairperson for the Midwest Kidney Network Consumer Committee. Welcome to the first edition of the Kidney Concerns quarterly newsletter! Midwest Kidney Network is back and stronger than ever!

Midwest Kidney Network services ESRD network 11 and is based in St. Paul, MN. We serve five states in the upper Midwest including Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, North Dakota, and South Dakota. As the Consumer Committee, our mission has been to support Midwest Kidney Networks' efforts with projects that engage the ESRD, dialysis and transplant patient population. We serve 506 dialysis providers, 19 transplant centers over 50,000 people with kidney failure and End Stage Renal Disease.

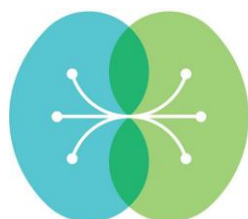
Some of MKN's many goals include meeting with dialysis providers to help them provide the best patient care possible. MKN also track patient health trends including infections, hospitalizations, vaccinations, transplant wait listing and kidney transplants. MKN provide a patient complaint and grievance process for patients that have concerns about their care. More importantly, we provide information on living well, recommendations on medication and dietary management, being a care partner, and how to lead your best life on dialysis while preparing for a transplant.

We hope you find the information in these newsletters informative and interesting. Visit our website at MidwestKidneyNetwork.org to learn more!

Sincerely,

Jeff Nelson

Consumer Committee Chair



**Midwest
Kidney Network**

Join our Consumer Committee!

By Patti B., Michigan

What do a software engineer, celebrity chef, medical researcher, social worker, mechanical engineer, pharmacy technician, registered nurse, motivational speaker and advocate have in common? They are all members of the Midwest Network II Consumer Committee. Each month this committee of volunteers, representing the states of Wisconsin, Michigan, South Dakota, North Dakota and Minnesota, participates in a group call to work towards better kidney health. Usually, they alternate each month between a “meet and greet call” and a “business call.” During the “meet and greet call” the members support each other, discuss current kidney political or medical updates and any other concerns. The “business calls” are focused on improving healthcare outcomes for end stage kidney disease, dialysis, kidney transplant recipients and donors, and care givers. The group has completed projects covering a wide range of topics from a booklet discussing individuals’ choice in treatments to a brochure about managing fluid and electrolytes.

This year the committee looks forward to sharing a newsletter written by kidney patients for kidney patients. Many thanks to the Consumer Committee volunteers and the support of the Midwest Kidney Network working to improve the outcomes of kidney patients and their care givers.

Interested in learning more? [Contact us!](#)

Patient Service’s email



Is Kidney Transplant Right for Me?



Understanding KPI Scores



KPI Scores - Spanish



KDPI and Kidney Transplantation

By Sophia S., Wisconsin

When you are being evaluated for a kidney transplant, you may be asked if you would accept a high KDPI organ. What does that mean? KDPI or Kidney Donor Profile Index is a score representing a numerical rating for a donated kidney. The rating ranges from 1-100. The score is an indication of quality and projected years of organ viability. The process of calculating the KDPI entails taking multiple things into consideration the donor’s age, medical conditions, such as obesity, hepatitis, high blood pressure, drug usage, etc. **The lower the KDPI score the better.** 0-20 being the highest rating with 61-100 being the lowest.



While a high KDPI kidney may seem totally undesirable, it is a good option for some patients whose age or other options are taken into consideration. It is true that transplants performed with high KDPI (86-100%) rated kidneys are likely to last 5.5 years. Most transplanted kidneys have a KDPI between 21-85% and are expected to last for an average of 9 years. The wait-time for transplantation may be shortened if the recipient agrees to a higher KDPI kidney. The potential recipient must consent to receipt of a high KDPI kidney.