

# For People with Diabetes or High Blood Pressure

## Get Checked for Kidney Disease



MAKE THE **Kidney.**  
Connection

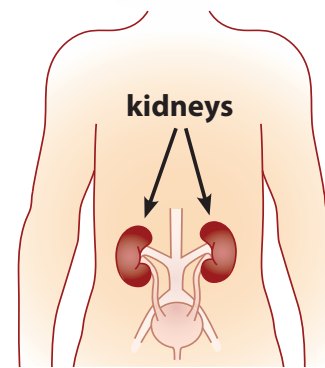
## Why should I be checked for kidney disease?

Diabetes and high blood pressure can damage the kidneys and lead to kidney disease. You need to get checked for kidney disease if you have one of these conditions. Here are some other reasons to get checked:

- **Early kidney disease has no signs or symptoms.** The only way to know if you have kidney disease is to get checked for it.
- **Kidney disease often does not go away.** It may get worse over time and can lead to kidney failure. You will need to go on dialysis or have a kidney transplant if your kidneys fail.
- **Kidney disease can be treated.** The sooner you know you have kidney disease, the sooner you can get treatment to help delay or prevent kidney failure. Treating kidney disease may also help prevent heart disease.

Diabetes and high blood pressure are not the only risk factors for kidney disease. You also should be checked if you have:

- cardiovascular (heart) disease, or
- a mother, father, sister, or brother with kidney failure.



You have two kidneys located near the middle of your back, just under your rib cage. Their main job is to filter wastes and extra water from the blood to make urine. Wastes can build up in the body when the kidneys are damaged.

## How will I be checked for kidney disease?

Two tests are used to check for kidney disease.

- **A blood test checks your GFR, which tells how well your kidneys are filtering.** GFR stands for glomerular filtration rate.
- **A urine test checks for albumin.** Albumin is a protein that can pass into the urine when the kidneys are damaged.

### **FACT:**

Good diabetes care is reducing the risk for kidney failure in Native American people with diabetes.

# Steps you can take to keep your kidneys healthy

1. Get checked for kidney disease. The sooner you know you have kidney disease, the sooner it can be treated.
2. Manage your diabetes and keep your blood pressure below 130/80. That means eating healthy and cutting back on salt. It also means being active and taking medicines as prescribed.

## At your next health care visit, make sure you learn:

- Your blood pressure
- Your GFR
- The amount of albumin in your urine
- Your blood glucose

## For more information:

### **Indian Health Service Division of Diabetes (IHS DDTP)**

1-505-248-4182 • [www.diabetes.ih.gov](http://www.diabetes.ih.gov)

### **National Kidney Disease Education Program (NKDEP)**

1-866-4 KIDNEY (1-866-454-3639) • [www.nkdep.nih.gov](http://www.nkdep.nih.gov)

### **National Diabetes Education Program**

1-888-693-NDEP (6337) • [www.ndep.nih.gov](http://www.ndep.nih.gov)

### **National High Blood Pressure Education Program**

1-301-592-8573 • [www.nhlbi.nih.gov/about/nhbpep](http://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/about/nhbpep)



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DIABETES AND DIGESTIVE  
AND KIDNEY DISEASES  
National Institutes of Health



The National Kidney Disease Education Program (NKDEP) encourages people to get tested for kidney disease and educates those with kidney disease and their health care providers about treatments that can help delay or prevent kidney failure. NKDEP is a program of the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases at the National Institutes of Health (NIH).