



END STAGE RENAL DISEASE
NETWORKS 8 & 14

HEALTH & H.O.P.E.

HELP ON PROCESSING EVERYTHING DIALYSIS

Find the Right Dialysis Clinic With Dialysis Compare

Dialysis Compare can help you find the right dialysis clinic for your needs. It allows you to:

- Look up reports on clinics.
- Get useful details to help you choose your medical team.
- Make better health care decisions.

When choosing a clinic, check that your kidney doctor can visit you there.

To use Dialysis Compare, [go to the website](#). Select “Dialysis Facilities” and enter your address, zip code, city, or state.

RESOURCES:
[Checklist to help you choose a dialysis facility](#)

[Learn How to Use Dialysis Facility Compare](#)

We Have a New Mailing Address

The ESRD Networks 8 and 14 have a new mailing address.

To mail information to your Network office, send it to:
ESRD Network 8
(Alabama, Mississippi, Tennessee)
P.O. Box 105337
Atlanta, GA 30348

ESRD Network 14 (Texas)
P.O. Box 105337
Atlanta, GA 30348

Understanding Dialysis Clinic Star Ratings: What They Mean for Your Care

The dialysis facility patient care rating shows how your clinic compares to others nearby. This rating is based on different levels of patient care at each clinic.



[Click Here](#) to find out more about what these ratings mean and why they matter.

How to use the star rating:
Use the star ratings along with other facts to help choose a clinic. Each dialysis clinic gets a rating from one to five stars. A three-star rating is the national average. A five-star rating means the clinic is above average, while one or two stars mean it's below average.

[Click Here](#) to learn more.

Medicare Open Enrollment Is Here

Get the [flyer](#) from Medicare.gov for ideas on how to find a plan that saves you money.



AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM MEDICARE

HAVE YOU COMPARED YOUR OPTIONS?

You might find a plan that saves you money.

Medicare Open Enrollment is here

Now is the time to compare your current coverage to all your choices for 2024 and select the plan that best fits your needs and budget. Medicare's Open Enrollment period gives everyone with Medicare the opportunity to make changes to their prescription drug plans or health plans for coverage beginning January 1, 2024. But don't delay, the Open Enrollment period ends on December 7.

Why compare options for next year?

Just like your health, Medicare plans can change every year—and your current one might be changing. Plus, not all plans have the same benefits and out-of-pocket costs. By comparing all your options, you could find a plan that offers you better coverage, saves money, or both. Review your current plan, costs, and health needs, then go to Medicare.gov.

It's easy to compare options on Medicare.gov

At Medicare.gov, you can do a side-by-side comparison of plan coverages, costs, and quality ratings to help you see the real differences between plans and feel confident in your choice. If you choose a new plan for 2024, you can enroll right there. Current coverage still meets your needs best? Then, you don't have to do anything.

MEDICARE OPEN ENROLLMENT

OCT. 15–DEC. 7

Prefer to talk it over?

Call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227)
TTY Users: 1-877-486-2048

We're here to help 24 hours a day during Open Enrollment, including weekends. Or, find free, personalized health insurance counseling from your State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP). Visit [shiphelp.org](#) for locations near you. Many SHIPs offer virtual counseling.

Medicare Part D Extra Help

If you are struggling with your prescription drug costs, **Extra Help** is a Medicare program that can help pay for your drug coverage (Part D) premiums, deductibles, coinsurance, and other out-of-pocket costs. If you make less than \$22,000 a year, it's worth it to apply.

Visit [ssa.gov/extrahelp](#) or call Social Security at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778) to apply.

October 2023

Medicare.gov | 1-800-MEDICARE
THE OFFICIAL SOURCE FOR MEDICARE

PAID FOR BY THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

How Alliant ESRD Networks Support Your Dialysis Care

Do you know what the Network is and what we do? Alliant ESRD Networks work with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to make sure ESRD patients get safe and good care. ESRD Network 8 and 14 help patients in Alabama, Mississippi, Tennessee and Texas.

We help you by:

- Giving you information to learn about end-stage renal disease.
- Working with dialysis clinics to improve your care.
- Helping solve complaints.
- Sharing details about dialysis treatment options.
- Assisting patients in finding a dialysis clinic.

RESOURCES:

[ESRD Network Supports Patients, Caregivers, and Dialysis Facilities \(Video\)](#)

[ESRD Network 8 and 14 Facebook](#)

To file a grievance, contact the following agencies:

ESRD Network 8 – Phone: 1-877-936-9260;
Email: nw8info@allianthealth.org;
Mail: P.O. Box 105337, Atlanta, GA 30348;
Website: <https://quality.allianthealth.org/topic/esrd-nw8/> – For patients and facilities in AL, MS, TN.

ESRD Network 14 – Office: 972-503-3215;
fax: 972-503-3219; Toll-free: 877-886-4435;
Email: nw14info@allianthealth.org;
Mail: P.O. Box 105337, Atlanta, GA 30348;
Website: <https://quality.allianthealth.org/topic/esrd-nw14/> – For patients and facilities in TX.

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Traveling as a Dialysis Patient: Tips for a Smooth Journey



With some planning, dialysis patients can travel by plane, train, boat, or car just like everyone else. Traveling can be a great adventure, but it's important to prepare for your dialysis treatments while you're away from home. Here are some tips to help you travel safely and enjoyably.

Plan your dialysis treatments

Before you set off on your journey, make sure to plan how you will handle your dialysis. If you go to a dialysis center for your treatments, look for one at your travel destination. You can ask your doctor or check online for nearby clinics. If you do dialysis at home, you may need to ship your supplies ahead of time to ensure you have everything you need when you arrive.

Choose the right destination

When picking a place to visit, think about how often you need dialysis. For example, if you need treatments several times a week, it's a good idea to choose a destination closer to home. This way, you can make sure you can get to your next treatment on time without any stress.

Decide how to travel

Think about the best way to travel that meets your needs. You can choose to fly, take a train, go by boat, or drive in a car. Each option has its pros and cons, so pick the one that makes you feel most comfortable.

Flying with a dialysis machine

If you decide to fly, there are a few important things to remember. Call TSA Cares at 855-787-2227 at least 72 hours before your flight to let them know you will be traveling with a dialysis machine and supplies. Your dialysis machine isn't considered carry-on luggage, so it needs to be stored in the airplane cabin, not in the cargo area.

Also, if you need to bring larger bottles of liquid medicine, you can do that too! Just make sure to inform the TSA about it before your trip.

Enjoy your trip

With a little planning, you can travel safely and have fun while managing your dialysis needs. Whether you're visiting family, exploring new places, or enjoying a vacation, the world is yours to discover. Happy travels!



RESOURCES:

[American Kidney Fund – Traveling while having kidney disease](#)

[TSA – Passenger Support](#)

[U.S. Department of Transportation - Transport of Portable Dialysis Machines](#)