

## Meet the hospital renal team

The hospital renal (kidney) team are health professionals who provide care for a person, once they have been referred to hospital renal services. The team includes:



**Nephrologist** (kidney specialist) – A doctor who specialises in kidney diseases and treatment and, together with you and the other team members, plans the best treatment for you.

**Nephrology registrar** – A senior trainee kidney doctor, heading towards becoming a nephrologist. Often works beside the nephrologist.

**Nurse practitioner** – A senior nurse who has advanced clinical training to manage patient care and the legal authority to prescribe medications.

**CKD / pre-dialysis nurse educators** – Each renal unit has nurses who work alongside you and the medical team to plan for management of your kidney disease. Their role is to support you to stay as well as you can for as long as possible before needing renal replacement therapy, and to provide you with the information and resources you and your whānau need to make informed choices about your treatment options, whether it be dialysis, transplant or conservative care.

**Transplant coordinator** – Provides education about transplant to those patients and their whānau who are suitable for transplantation. Coordinates testing and evaluation of renal patients and potential living kidney donors.

**Dialysis nurses / Renal Physiologists** – Provide support and care for the patient on haemodialysis in an in-centre or satellite unit setting.

**Home therapies nurses** – Provide education, training and ongoing support for those patients who are suitable for independent home-based or community dialysis, whether it be peritoneal dialysis or home haemodialysis.

**Renal social worker** – Provide support with referrals and applications to community, government and support agencies, applying for financial assistance, housing matters and travel. They provide support to the patient and their whānau for social/whānau matters and liaises with the medical team where a social issue may be impacting on a person's ability to access treatment.

**Renal dietician** – Works with the patient to optimise nutritional health, based on body habitus, dietary needs, and blood test results. They provide dietary advice and create dietary plans to patients with end stage renal disease, and also for those who share the role of household meal preparation.

**Renal psychologist** – Some renal units employ a psychologist who can offer specialised support for those who are struggling to adjust to life with CKD.

**Kaitakawaenga/Kaiāwhina** – Provide cultural, emotional and spiritual support for inpatients as well as dialysis outpatients and their whānau. They also provide support for meetings between health professionals, patients and whānau.

**Hospital Chaplains** – Provide support to people of all faith groups or of no faith. They can spend time with you, listen to your concerns, and support you pastorally and spiritually.

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