


# The Chronic Kidney Disease Improvement in Research and Treatment Act

**H.R. 5027**  **The Chronic Kidney Disease Improvement in Research and Treatment Act of 2023** aims to improve the lives of those with kidney disease. The bipartisan legislation is endorsed by Kidney Care Partners. It includes efforts to prevent and better understand chronic kidney disease (CKD) by ensuring appropriate reimbursement for quality care and improve patient access to the innovative drugs, technology, and innovations along the kidney care continuum.

## **H.R. 5027 includes provisions that would:**

- 1. Include Kidney Screening in the Annual Medicare Wellness Benefit.** Many people with kidney disease do not know that they have it. Including a screening in the yearly wellness checks for Medicare beneficiaries will provide patients and their health care providers with a report of kidney function. It will allow physicians to track if kidney function decreases over time and provide early interventions.
- 2. Expand the Medicare Kidney Disease Education (KDE) benefit.** The Medicare KDE benefit allows beneficiaries at stage four of CKD to meet with a doctor to learn about CKD and how to improve health to delay dialysis. It can also include information on nutrition, the importance of exercise, management of other chronic diseases like heart disease or diabetes, and treatment modality options such as in-center hemodialysis, home dialysis, and kidney transplant. The bill would also allow patients with stage 5 CKD to access the KDE benefit.
- 3. Expand Access to Medigap plans.** Federal law does not guarantee Medicare beneficiaries under 65 access to a Medicare supplemental plan called Medigap, which pays copayments and deductibles. For example, Medicare Part B pays 80% of dialysis costs, and the patient must pay 20% with no out-of-pocket cap. Medigap plans cover that 20%. States regulate Medigap for people under the age of 65, and 18 states do not require insurers to offer Medigap to ESRD patients under age 65. The bill would require all Medicare ESRD patients be guaranteed access to a Medigap plan regardless of their state or age.

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