



Nonprofit Kidney Care Alliance

NKCA Member Companies Attend White House Summit and Announce New Commitments in Their Fight to Increase Organ Donation

Contact: Monica Massaro, (202) 580-7709
mmassaro@health-law.com

June 13, 2016
For Immediate Release

Washington, DC: Today, the Nonprofit Kidney Care Alliance (NKCA) and its members announced commitments to reduce the kidney transplant wait list by launching initiatives to increase awareness and access to transplant for people with chronic kidney disease (CKD) and end stage renal disease (ESRD). These commitments, announced at the White House Organ Summit, build on NKCA's belief that transplant is the optimal therapy for patients with kidney failure in order to improve life expectancy, increase quality of life, and reduce the number of people who need dialysis. As nonprofit dialysis providers serving over 20,000 patients at more than 280 clinics in 30 states, NKCA member companies have the unique opportunity to educate and counsel patients on their treatment options regarding transplant and maximize the opportunity of receiving a kidney transplant. We believe that by counseling patients early on their treatment options, patients will get on the wait list sooner and are more likely to receive a pre-emptive transplant.

NKCA applauds the White House for convening today's summit to focus attention on the 120,000 people on waiting lists for organs, 100,000 of whom are in need of a kidney. The White House highlighted three of our members' programs to increase transplant:

Dialysis Clinic, Inc. (DCI) announced the expansion of their REACH Kidney Care Program to 27 communities in 17 states. REACH will provide patient education and assistance to 2,500 patients with less than 30 percent of kidney function over the next year with the goal of increasing access to pre-emptive transplant before a patient needs dialysis. "DCI is committed to educating our patients about all treatment options well before kidney failure occurs. If patients desire a transplant, we will equip them with the resources they need to discuss organ donation with potential living donors," said DCI Vice-Chairman of the Board, Doug Johnson, MD. Currently, only 2.6% of patients nationwide receive a pre-emptive kidney transplant. DCI's goal is to quadruple that rate for our patients.

Northwest Kidney Centers (NKC) announced the launch of its new CKD Patient Navigation Service providing individualized assistance to patients on dialysis and expanding access to rural patients via its new teleconferencing system. NKC is also investing in cutting edge dialysis technology projects with the Kidney Research Institute, a collaboration between NKC and the University of Washington. "Our commitment is designed to help our people with serious kidney disease in our region be

knowledgeable about transplant as an option and to be as healthy as possible when the call comes for a transplant,” said NKC President and Chief Executive Officer Joyce Jackson.

The Rogosin Institute, to bring increased awareness and promote kidney transplant, has committed to mobilize volunteers this summer to provide culturally-specific grassroots education in high disease-burden areas of Brooklyn, New York through community, social, and faith-based organizations. Rogosin Institute also announced that their Center for Health Action and Policy (CHAP) will convene a roundtable to generate pilot projects to expand access to transplant. "Educating chronic kidney disease patients early on about kidney transplantation can help prevent the need for dialysis but, more importantly, can lead to improvement in their health and the quality of their lives," commented Barry Smith, MD, President of Rogosin.

About NKCA: The Nonprofit Kidney Care Alliance is a collaboration of nonprofit dialysis providers dedicated to improving health-related quality of life and coordination of care for patients both before they reach dialysis and when they are on dialysis. NKCA pursues these goals by sharing best practices among providers and developing a model of care to improve overall patient care, and by serving as a resource to policymakers and other experts who seek to promote efficient and effective care for dialysis patients. NKCA represents five nonprofit dialysis providers: Centers for Dialysis Care; Dialysis Clinic, Inc.; Independent Dialysis Foundation, Inc.; Northwest Kidney Centers; and The Rogosin Institute. Collectively, we serve over 20,000 patients at more than 280 clinics in 30 states. More information is available at <http://www.nonprofitkidneycare.org/>.

###