

Northwest Kidney Centers named among Top 10 U.S. dialysis providers

Local nonprofit dialysis leader
known for research and innovation

Seattle, WA (July 10, 2014) — [Nephrology News & Issues](#) magazine has named [Northwest Kidney Centers](#) the 10th largest U.S. dialysis provider in 2014. This is a significant achievement for the local nonprofit, the world's oldest out-of-hospital dialysis organization, founded in 1962.

Northwest Kidney Centers is small compared to the large multi-national corporations at the top of the list, but its ability to survive and thrive is notable in a shifting economic landscape for dialysis providers, where many consolidations have occurred in recent years.

Northwest Kidney Centers “remains a model in the field because of its high quality services, community connections and generous donor support,” *Nephrology News & Issues* wrote in the July 2014 article announcing the top dialysis providers. “Noteworthy services include its special care units for very frail patients, a renal pharmacy operating since 1989, free classes for people at various stages of kidney disease, funding for nephrology fellowships at the University of Washington, and collaboration with UW Medicine in the Kidney Research Institute.”

Being recognized in this way underscores Northwest Kidney Centers' mission to promote the optimal health, quality of life and independence of people with kidney disease through patient care, education and research.

“We are proud to work with our patients' best interests uppermost in mind,” said Joyce F. Jackson, president and CEO of Northwest Kidney Centers. “We draw energy from our collaborations with other regional health organizations and especially from financial donors, who help us take our patient care, education and research to a higher level.”

The July article notes that when *Nephrology News & Issues* started ranking U.S. dialysis providers 20 years ago, there was a ‘buying frenzy’ by mid-sized organizations that signed up investors or went public to raise cash and buy clinics.” Since then, many smaller organizations have been bought out, leaving fewer choices for dialysis patients.

“The spread in the number of patients among the 10 largest providers in that first ranking was 40,000 to 1,035 patients; in this year's 20th annual ranking, it ranges from a whopping 172,006 patients (Fresenius Medical

Care North America) down to 1,563 from new entry Northwest Kidney Centers," *Nephrology News & Issues* reported. "The good news is that those small providers are still around."

Nephrology News & Issues also singles out Northwest Kidney Centers for its focus on providing the benefits of self-dialysis at home to a higher-than-average number of patients. "Today, the home population represents about 11 percent of the total patient population among the providers in our survey," *Nephrology News & Issues* wrote. "Satellite (Healthcare) and Northwest Kidney Centers continue to lead the way in the number of patients dialyzing at home."

"More than 16 percent of our patients choose to do their own dialysis treatments," Jackson said. "We invest resources to train and monitor them, but we promote this approach because, for the most part, home patients stay healthier and feel better. They like the independence of scheduling frequent treatments more in the way normal kidneys work."

About Northwest Kidney Centers: Northwest Kidney Centers is a regional, not-for-profit, community-based provider of kidney dialysis, the blood-cleansing treatment that can keep people alive indefinitely even if their kidneys have failed. The organization also provides public health education and research into the causes and treatments of chronic kidney disease. It operates 15 dialysis centers in King and Clallam counties. Learn more at www.nwkidney.org.

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