

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****Northwest Kidney Centers ranks high  
in national ratings of dialysis quality**

SEATTLE, Wash. (Oct. 27, 2016): The patient care provided at Northwest Kidney Centers dialysis clinics is among the best in the nation, according to the annual Dialysis Facility Compare five-star quality rating system of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

The nonprofit operates 15 dialysis clinics in King and Clallam counties. Fourteen of the clinics received 4 or 5 stars. The overall star rating for the organization is 4.3, an average of the stars awarded to individual clinics.

The federal government ratings cover every dialysis center in the United States. They are based on 2015 patient outcomes related to survival, hospitalizations, management of anemia, vascular access and management of bone disease.

"We are pleased that our quality is high and getting better," said Northwest Kidney Centers president and CEO Joyce F. Jackson. "Our mission is to promote the optimal health, quality of life and independence of people with kidney disease. It's good to have concrete data to show we are on the right track."

Statistics from the federal Dialysis Facility Reports for our facilities show:

- Northwest Kidney Centers patients are hospitalized 16 percent less often than the national average.
- Northwest Kidney Centers patients receive transplants at a rate 70 percent higher than others across the country.
- Compared to their counterparts across the country, Northwest Kidney Centers patients are much more likely (37 percent vs. 25 percent) to start dialysis with a permanent bloodstream access for hemodialysis. This access method is considered the gold standard because it's less infection-prone than a temporary catheter.

"Dialysis is a face-to-face business," Jackson said. "Patients come to our clinics three times a week to have their blood cleansed by a machine because their kidneys can't do that work anymore. We know each one. When we are able to help them live longer and live better, as these reports show we are doing, it's a cause for celebration."

For detailed reports on each Northwest Kidney Centers clinic, visit [www.nwkidney.org/quality](http://www.nwkidney.org/quality).

**Northwest Kidney Centers** is a regional, not-for-profit, locally run provider of kidney dialysis, public health education and research into the causes and treatments of chronic kidney disease. Founded in Seattle in 1962, it was the world's first dialysis organization. It remains the provider of choice because of its high quality services, community connections and generous donor support. Its website is [www.nwkidney.org](http://www.nwkidney.org).

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