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The COVID-19 Pandemic Catalyzes Need for Adequate Care for People Living With Kidney Disease

World Kidney Day 2023: Preparing for the unexpected, supporting the vulnerable.

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More than 850 million people worldwide are living with kidney disease and are particularly affected by disastrous events as their ability to access appropriate care, complex and multi-faceted in nature, may be hindered.

“The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the challenges faced by healthcare systems to provide essential health services and a policy deficit in managing consistent access to care. As the number of disastrous events has increased in recent years, it is essential to ensure safe, sustainable, and continuous health services for those in need of lifelong ongoing complex treatments, such as people living with kidney disease,” jointly stated Agnes Fogo, president of the International Society of Nephrology (ISN) and Latha Kumaraswami, president of the International Federation of Kidney Foundations – World Kidney Alliance (IFKF-WKA) which together lead the World Kidney Day (WKD) campaign.

On March 9, 2023, the World Kidney Day call to action is “[Kidney Health for All: Preparing for the unexpected, supporting the vulnerable!](#)” This call to action is for the whole of society, including policymakers, health care services, governments, industry, as well as people living with kidney disease and their carers, to be well prepared for unexpected events to avoid any disruption in access to diagnosis, treatment, and care.

“Having a plan of action for the management of patients in continuing care and a response plan for any future events that could result in disruptions of patient care delivery, will improve the efficiency of public health services in times of crisis.” advises Alessandro Balducci, co-chair WKD Joint Steering Committee for IFKF-WKA, based at the Italian Kidney Foundation in Italy.

“The responsibility lies at all levels of care, with an imperative to be systematic and collaborative. Governments must develop and implement adequate policies to provide a framework for adaptive, robust, and resilient healthcare systems to function optimally for all patients during emergencies and recovery, supported by healthcare services, NGOs and the community. Engaged and prepared patient cohorts, integral to planning, is also critical.” adds Robyn Langham, co-chair of the WKD Joint Steering Committee for ISN, based at the University of Melbourne in Australia.

In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, it is even more important that we work to include kidney disease in preparedness plans, pre-emptively highlighting the importance of providing business-as-usual ongoing care for kidney patients during unexpected times.



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World Kidney Day Supporters:

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About World Kidney Day:

How is World Kidney Day celebrated?

Kidney associations, organizations, kidney health stakeholders, healthcare professionals, and authorities organize local, regional, national, and international level events to help decrease incidences of kidney disease. People are educated through workshops, lectures, health checks, and displays and distribution of educational posters and other material in hospitals, colleges, community centers, other educational institutions, and public places or the workplace. Events involving physical activity are organized, such as walking, cycling, jogging, and dancing. Information is published on websites, blogs, forums, and social media platforms to further raise awareness of kidney diseases and related issues.

For more on World Kidney Day, see: <https://www.worldkidneyday.org/>

About the organizers of World Kidney Day:

World Kidney Day is a joint initiative of the International Society of Nephrology (ISN) and the International Federation of Kidney Foundations – World Kidney Alliance (IFKF-WKA).

Founded in 1960, the ISN is a global not-for-profit society dedicated to improving kidney care and reducing the incidence and impact of kidney disease worldwide. Through its worldwide network and programs, the ISN brings together the developing and developed world in a collaborative effort to fight and treat kidney disease on a global scale. Find out more at www.theisn.org.

The International Federation of Kidney Foundations – World Kidney Alliance (IFKF-WKA) is a not-for-profit federation founded in 1999. IFKF advocates worldwide to improve the health, well-being, and quality of life of people with kidney disease, disseminates standards of best practice of treatment and care, assists with the establishment of kidney foundations in countries where they do not yet exist, and facilitates educational programs for its members and promotes kidney disease research. Find out more at www.ifkf.org.



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For estimates of deaths attributed to chronic kidney disease from the Global Burden of Disease Study for selected countries, click [here](#)

¹for various prevalence studies on CKD in high-income countries, click [here](#) and <http://ihmeuw.org/4pme>

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