# Are you at risk for Kidney Disease?

Anyone can develop kidney problems, but you are more at risk if you:

- \* have diabetes
- \* have high blood pressure
- \* have heart disease
- \* have a family member with kidney disease
- \* are African American, Hispanic, Native American or Asian
- \* are over 60 years old

Take steps today to help protect your kidneys.

Your Dialysis Team:

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#### Manage Diabetes

- \* Special Diet
- \* Exercise
- \* Medication can help manage diabetes and prevent complications.

#### High Blood Pressure

- \* More than 72 million people in the US have high blood pressure.
- \* High Blood Pressure is the #2 cause of kidney failure.
- \* Healthy diet, exercise, and medication can help manage high blood pressure and prevent complications.

#### Heart Disease

\* Diseases of the heart and blood vessels can damage your kidneys.

## Family History

\* If you have a famiy member with kidney failure, you may be at more risk for kidney disease.

#### Ethnicity

\* African American, Hispanic, Native American or Asian ethnicities tend to have higher rates of diabetes and high blood pressure; the two leading causes of kidney failure.

Age

- \* Kidneys may lose function with age.
- \* Those over age 60 are more at risk for diabetes and high blood pressure.

## Healthy Steps

- \* Get regular checkups.
- \* Work with your Nephrologist.
- \* Catch and treat problems early.



#### 5 Stages of Kidney Failure

Stage 1: You will have a GFR>90

Stage 2: Mild kidney failure, GFR 60-89

Stage 3: Moderate kidney failure, GRF 30-59

Stage 4: Severe kidney failure, GFR 15-29

Stage 5: Complete kidney failure, GFR <15 = Dialysis

GFR=Glomerular Filtration Rate that measures how well your kidneys are filtering waste.

# Tips to prepare for your nephrology visit:

Write down any questions. Take a note pad and pen to take notes. Ask your Nephrologist to explain anything you do not understand. Make a list of all your medications (including prescriptions, over-the-counter medication, vitamins, and herbal supplements.) Keep your nephrologist's phone number handy. Calendar and keep all of your appointments.