

# Concern about dialysis safety spurs CDC action

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(HealthDay)—Steps to reduce bloodstream infections in dialysis patients

will be mapped out Thursday at a meeting of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and a coalition of kidney and dialysis groups.

Dialysis treatment—either in a hospital, a [dialysis unit](#) or at home—is needed when the kidneys cannot filter wastes from the body sufficiently. Each year, about 37,000 dialysis patients in the United States develop potentially deadly bloodstream infections associated with their treatment, the CDC says.

That number could be cut in half if dialysis facilities implemented CDC guidelines for dialysis safety, according to the agency.

"Making evidence-based safety steps a routine part of patient care is a proven strategy to keep dialysis patients safe from [bloodstream infections](#)," CDC Director Dr. Tom Frieden said in an agency news release. "We appreciate the new coalition of kidney and dialysis organizations stepping forward to protect the health of [dialysis patients](#)."

Thursday's meeting is designed to identify strategies, barriers and solutions to implementing recommended bloodstream infection prevention measures.

"Dialysis patients are particularly vulnerable to infections. We want to get lifesaving tools into the right hands to make a real impact on patients' lives," said Dr. Priti Patel, of the CDC's Division of Healthcare Quality Promotion. She is medical director of the coalition.

The coalition currently includes several organizations, among them the American Society of Nephrology, the Renal Physicians Association and the Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America.

"These dialysis leaders are committed to changing the way care is

delivered in U.S. dialysis facilities," Patel added.

**More information:** The U.S. National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases has more on [dialysis](#).

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