

NKF gets 10 new dialysis machines

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Photo by SHAARI CHE MAT

THE National Kidney Foundation (NKF) Malaysia now has 10 new kidney dialysis machines worth RM450,000 donated by Berjaya Cares Foundation.

NKF Malaysia vice-chairman Goh Seng Chuan said NKF now had about 1,450 dialysis patients receiving subsidised treatment at 25 dialysis centres nationwide and the number was growing annually.

"The 10 dialysis machines will be placed at our centres in Kedah, Johor and the Klang Valley," added Goh.

Each dialysis machine, which acts as an artificial kidney, will be able to help three patients a day. A patient requires four hours for the process to be completed.

Kidney failures are mainly caused by diabetes and hypertension. However, this condition occurs in all age groups, including children under the age of 12. Kidney failure is incurable, unless a kidney transplant is carried out.

"Before the 1970's, if you were to have kidney failure in Malaysia, it would have been a death sentence, as the first dialysis machine did not arrive here until 1970. Now, with these machines, we are able to prolong a person's life for another 30 years or more," said Goh.

A kidney dialysis session normally costs RM152. However, with the help of government subsidies and fund-raising, patients who



The more the better: Berjaya Corporation Berhad executive director Vivienne Cheng (left), Goh (centre) and NKF Malaysia chief executive officer Chua Hong Wee during the presentation ceremony of the machines.

go to NKF centres would only need to pay RM50.

NKF also goes to rural areas and corporations to conduct screenings to find out if there is a high risk of the person getting kidney failure. They also help educate the public about kidney failures and how to prevent them.

Kidney failure patients are normally hard-pressed to be able to live normal lives and find

jobs as they have to visit the centre three times a week and undergo treatments for as long as four hours per visit.

So, as an effort to help increase their income, NKF teaches some of their patients the skills to make handicraft. The handicraft products are then sold during fund-raising events, and the money earned will be given back to the patients.