

# NKF receives much-needed dialysis machine from Star Foundation

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**PETALING JAYA:** The National Kidney Foundation (NKF) of Malaysia has received a much-needed dialysis machine from the Star Foundation.

"We are very happy over the donation of this machine and we are thankful for it," said NKF chief executive officer Chua Hong Wee (*pic*).

The machine cost RM45,000. There are nearly 30,000 dialysis patients nationwide with an increase of nearly 6,000 a year.

"Every year we easily need another 20 dialysis machines to replace older ones," said Chua.

He added that they have about 450 dialysis machines in 27 NKF centres nationwide.

Each machine is able to cater to three patients daily with a patient using it once in every two days.

"We would like the centres to have spare machines in case of breakdowns, because the machines are heavily used by patients who need continuous treatment till they pass away or receive an organ transplant," Chua said.



He said the NKF was trying to reach out to the rural areas where there are no dialysis machines at all.

Like many other non-governmental organisations, sourcing for funds for NKF is a major struggle.

It requires at least RM30mil a year, with the Government providing about RM10mil.

Chua said as a non-profit organisation, it needed to keep the dialysis charges low at RM90 for a session, but patients would be completely subsidised if they had been certified as needing help by the Welfare Department.

Star Foundation trustee Tan Chong Seng who handed over the dialysis machine said it was good they could help relieve a little of NKF's financial burden.

"This is just one of the many causes we are supporting and we are looking at it on case-to-case basis," said Tan.

NKF was one among seven other NGOs to receive donations from a total of RM355,000.

The other NGOs were Insaf Technical Relief of Malaysia, Sisters in Islam, Womens Aid Organisation, IJN Foundation, Montfort Boys Town and Ti-Ratana Community Centre.