

More having kidney disease

ALARMING: Number of cases has almost tripled in the past decade

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AS of last month, 26,159 patients are undergoing dialysis nationwide, compared with 17,366 in 2007, according to the National Kidney Foundation (NKF).

NKF chief executive officer Chua Hong Wee said the number of kidney patients was growing every year and the public should be educated to avoid getting the disease.

"There are many new cases of kidney failure being diagnosed every year," he said yesterday in conjunction with World Kidney Day (WKD) 2013 today.

Globally, more than 500 million individuals, or about one in 10 adults, have some form of chronic kidney disease (CKD).

CKD is when the kidneys can no longer eliminate bodily waste because of several factors, such as infections or underlying chronic diseases like high blood pressure and diabetes.

NKF statistics showed that as of January,

16,479 people were on the organ waiting list, with 16,449 of them waiting for kidney transplants. Health Ministry studies revealed that 15 per cent or 4.2 million of the Malaysian population are at risk of chronic kidney disease.

Chua said yearly, NKF needed RM30 million to provide the subsidised dialysis treatment as well as the running of the foundation.

The number of dialysis patients has almost tripled in the last decade, from 325 per million population in 2000 to 812 per million in 2010.

"Other than dialysis, one form of treatment for end-stage kidney failure is organ transplant."

In conjunction with WKD 2013, NKF, Malaysian Society of Nephrology and the

Health Ministry's medical development division is organising the World Kidney Day Run & Carnival 2013 at Dataran Putrajaya on April 28.

The event is to highlight the importance of protecting one's kidneys and to promote public awareness of organ donation.

"The theme of the campaign is 'Kidneys for Life: Stop Acute

Kidney Injury' and we wish to educate the public on this with the hope of reducing the number of cases."

Those interested in taking part in the run can obtain the registration forms and information at www.hooaha.asia.

Growing concern

16,449

patients waiting for kidney transplants

4.2m

of the Malaysian population at risk of chronic kidney disease

INFOGRAPHIC: NST