



NKF chairman Datuk Dr Zaki Morad Mohamed Zaher says if the role of dialysis assistants is defined, nurses will be able to care for more patients.

## 'Recognise job and role of dialysis assistants'

By Sean Augustin  
sean@nst.com.my

**KUALA LUMPUR:** The National Kidney Foundation of Malaysia (NKF) has called for the recognition of dialysis assistants and their role to be defined.

NKF chairman Datuk Dr Zaki Morad Mohamed Zaher said this would help lessen the burden of nurses and medical assistants in dialysis centres run by the private sector and non-governmental organisations.

He said with the current recommended ratio of one nurse to six patients, recognising dialysis assistants would allow nurses to focus on their core work.

"Dialysis demand is expanding very fast and it is difficult to get trained nurses to do it," he told the *New Straits Times*.

He said private centres and NGOs employed a lot of dialysis assistants who could work on the least critical cases.

Should dialysis assistants be recognised and their role defined, Dr Zaki, who is also a consultant nephrologist, said nurses would be able to care for more patients.

This is one of the recommendations that the NKF hopes to include in the Private Healthcare Facilities and Services Act 1998.

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The other recommendations are to make dialysis facilities more conducive to prevent infections and ensure that treatment is on par with "the rest of the world".

NKF will discuss these recommendations at its annual dialysis meeting on Saturday and the proposals will be sent to the government.

Dr Zaki said while the present guidelines were sufficient and local dialysis treatment was "among the better ones in Asia", reforms were needed to keep up with the current practice.

"We want to make it better for the patients," he said.