

CHRONIC kidney disease is a national health problem which is primarily caused by either diabetes or high blood pressure, affecting approximately 2.9 million Malaysians.

Haemodialysis still needs to be carried out for affected kidney patients, requiring trained staff to deliver the four-hour treatment three times a week.

Dialysis centres need to take precautionary steps to ensure the respiratory health of their front line healthcare personnel as they assist patients with their treatment.

National Kidney Foundation of Malaysia (NKF) chairman Datuk Dr Zaki Morad Mohamad Zaher said the non-profit organisation, which had been providing subsidised dialysis treatment in Malaysia for over 30 years, had taken precautions to ensure all its doctors and nurses are safe during this time by following infection control and prevention protocols as well as providing full personal protective equipment (PPE) when required.

"As people with kidney disease may have weaker immune systems, making it harder to fight infections, sanitiser, masks and PPE are equally important to safeguard patients' health and well-being.

"During this critical time, our doctors and nurses are saving lives by providing dialysis treatment to our patients.

"As our nation battles Covid-19 during this movement control order (MCO), NKF healthcare professionals and frontliners continue with their duties.

Safeguarding well-being of dialysis centres personnel

NKF provides them with full personal protective equipment

"The most basic necessities they need right now include PPE such as disposable gowns, gloves, face masks and shields as well as hand sanitiser so they can reduce their risk of exposure," said Dr Zaki.

"On behalf of NKF, we are grateful for the generosity of caring corporations and citizens who provided us with much-needed support.

"We will ensure that the medical supplies and cash contributions towards the NKF Covid-19 Fund totalling more than RM300,000 will be used prudently to protect the respiratory health of our healthcare personnel across the nation, giving us the encouragement and motivation to continuously carry out our duties for our patients," he said.

NKF's 28 dialysis centres nationwide continue to operate as usual throughout the MCO.

Those interested in contributing towards the purchase of PPE and other medical equipment for NKF's frontliners and dialysis patients, can call 016-230 1072 or visit nkf.org.my/support-us/nkf-covid-19-fund/



NKF chief executive officer Chua Hong Wee (right) receiving a donation from KPJ Sentosa KL Specialist Hospital chief executive officer Zaiton Sulaiman.