

## MEDIA RELEASE

### **NKF Convenes National Experts at the 18th Annual Dialysis Conference (ADC 2025) to Advance Kidney Health**

**Petaling Jaya, 11 October 2025** – The National Kidney Foundation of Malaysia (NKF) successfully held its 18th Annual Dialysis Conference (ADC 2025) on Saturday, 11 October and Sunday, 12 October 2025 at One World Hotel, Petaling Jaya, Selangor.

The conference was officiated by **Yang Berhormat Datuk Seri Dr. Dzulkefly Ahmad, Minister of Health Malaysia**, who reaffirmed the government's commitment to strengthening renal care services and supporting innovation in chronic kidney disease (CKD) management.

"Kidney disease continues to place a significant burden on patients, families, and our healthcare system. The Ministry of Health remains committed to improving early detection, prevention, and treatment services, while also fostering collaboration with partners such as NKF to ensure patients have access to quality and sustainable care," said Yang Berhormat Datuk Seri Dr. Dzulkefly Ahmad.

Themed **"INNOVATE, ELEVATE, TRANSFORM,"** the two-day conference gathered a multidisciplinary audience of nephrologists, doctors, nurses, dialysis centre managers, medical assistants, and allied health professionals. The programme included plenaries, symposia, and forums highlighting critical areas such as the future of CKD and dialysis care in Malaysia, advances in kidney transplantation, green nephrology, vascular access, peritoneal dialysis, vaccination, and patient quality of life.

A major highlight was the HIV & CKD Symposium, exploring HAART treatment, stigma, and the outlook for HIV-positive patients requiring dialysis and transplantation. The conference also featured sessions on the physical, spiritual, and emotional adjustment of dialysis patients, reflecting a holistic approach to renal care.

ADC 2025 comes at a pivotal moment, following the historic adoption of the **World Health Assembly Resolution 78 (WHA78)** in May 2025, which places kidney disease on the World Health Organization's Non-Communicable Disease (NCD) agenda for the first time.

"The fight against chronic kidney disease requires not only clinical excellence but also global solidarity. The WHA78 resolution reinforces the importance of prevention, innovation, and access to care. At NKF, we are committed to translating these aspirations into action for the benefit of patients in Malaysia," said Yang Berbahagia Dato' Dr. Zaki Morad bin Mohamed Zaher, Chairman of NKF.

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NATIONAL KIDNEY FOUNDATION OF MALAYSIA Regd.No.PPM-002-10-12021969

YAYASAN BUAH PINGGANG KEBANGSAAN MALAYSIA

馬來西亞腎臟基金會

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ADC 2025 attracted **over 500 delegates**, fostering lively exchanges of ideas and interdisciplinary collaboration. The success of this year's conference marks another milestone in NKF's efforts to shape the future of dialysis and renal care in Malaysia.

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## **CKD in Malaysia – Key Facts**

- Estimated 15% of Malaysian adults have chronic kidney disease (~2.5 million people) – Study by National Health and Morbidity Survey (NKMS) 2019.
  - Dialysis patients in Malaysia: over 50,000 – Malaysian Dialysis and Transplant Registry 2023.
  - New dialysis cases per year: 10,000 – MDTR 2023.
  - Kidney transplants performed per year: ~500–600 – MDTR 2023.
  - Economic burden: Dialysis costs ~RM60,000–RM70,000 per patient per year.
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## **Minister Q&A Spotlight**

**Q: How will the Ministry of Health and partners work to improve kidney health and patient care, especially for the B40 community?**

**A:** The Ministry will strengthen partnerships with NGOs, community groups, and private sector partners to enhance outreach, education, and patient care. Efforts include expanding joint screening and awareness campaigns in B40 areas, creating clear referral pathways from community events to primary care, and supporting subsidised dialysis and transplant assistance for low-income patients.

**Q: What new initiatives will encourage early action on kidney health in 2026?**

**A:** In line with WHO recommendations on NCD prevention, kidney health will remain a key focus. Initiatives include public education on diabetes and hypertension control, school-based health programmes, and digital risk-assessment tools. The goal is to encourage Malaysians to act early and reduce the long-term need for dialysis.

**Q (optional): How will the Ministry support accessibility and affordability for patients?**

**A:** The Ministry continues to support B40 patients through existing subsidy programs and works with NGOs and welfare partners to ensure that low-income patients can access necessary care.

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## Background: WHA78 Resolution on Kidney Health

On 23 May 2025, the 78th World Health Assembly (WHA78) adopted a landmark resolution to reduce the global burden of kidney disease — the first time kidney health has been formally recognised within the WHO NCD agenda.

### What it means:

- CKD is recognised as a major public health issue alongside cardiovascular disease, diabetes, cancer, and chronic respiratory disease
- Aligns with SDG Targets 3.4 (reduce premature mortality from NCDs) and 3.8 (achieve universal health coverage)
- Calls on countries to strengthen prevention, early detection, and treatment of kidney disease
- Opens opportunities for global resource mobilisation, policy development, and integrated care strategies

**NKF Malaysia** is committed to advancing kidney health in alignment with WHA78 and supporting the Ministry of Health in its national CKD strategies.

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## About the National Kidney Foundation of Malaysia (NKF)

NKF is a non-profit organisation dedicated to promoting kidney health and providing affordable dialysis care for patients with CKD. NKF also leads awareness campaigns, training programmes, and conferences to enhance professional knowledge and improve patient outcomes.

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