

Bridging the Gap: Lifetime Immunosuppressive Coverage for Kidney Patients



NATIONAL KIDNEY
FOUNDATION®

February 17, 2021

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Bridging the Gap: Lifetime Medicare Immunosuppressive Coverage

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Agenda

- Benefit History
- Eligibility and Coverage
- Implementation
- Patient Requirements

Immunosuppressive Benefit History



1986

Congress creates Medicare coverage for immunosuppressive medications for 12 months post-transplant.



1993

Congress extends Medicare immunosuppressive coverage to 36 months post-transplant.



2000

Congress enacts lifetime immunosuppressive coverage for aged and disabled kidney recipients.



2001-2020

NKF advocates for lifetime immunosuppressive coverage for Medicare ESRD beneficiaries.

Educating Congress

37 MILLION ADULTS

Have chronic kidney disease.

100,000

Nearly 100,000 Americans are on a kidney wait list.

23,000

Fewer than 23,000 kidney transplants in 2020.

\$90,000

Cost to Medicare for all health needs for a dialysis patient, nearly 3X as much as the cost of caring for a kidney recipient.

Eligibility and Coverage

Must have been eligible for and applied to Medicare prior to transplant, even if Medicare was not the primary payer.

Lacks other public insurance such as Medicaid, VA coverage, TRICARE.

Lacks private coverage with an immuno benefit, such as group health plan, employer coverage, ACA.

Extended benefit applies *only to* immunosuppressive drugs. All other Medicare benefits end 36 months post-transplant.

Implementation

Effective 1/1/2023. Any kidney recipient who meets the qualifications is eligible, even if their 36 months period previously expired.

Application process will be established by HHS.

Premium will be equal to 15% of the monthly Part B premium for Medicare aged and disabled beneficiaries. Copay requirement will be determined prior to 2023.

Patient Requirements

Kidney recipients are eligible to enroll or be deemed to have enrolled in Medicare solely for the purposes of immunosuppressive coverage.

The individual shall provide attestation that they are not enrolled and does not expect to enroll in other insurance coverage.

If other coverage is obtained, the individual must notify HHS within 60 days of enrollment of the other coverage.

Need More Information?

<https://www.kidney.org/atoz/content/faq-expanded-medicare-coverage-immunosuppressive-drugs-kidney-transplant-recipients>

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Watch for the follow-up email with a link to the Evaluation Form.
Please take time to complete the form, we appreciate the feedback!

Visit the Forum website to view the recording & slides:

<https://esrdnetworks.org/education/forum-hosted-educational-webinars/>

Visit the NKF website for updates to this topic: <https://www.kidney.org/>

Your local ESRD Network is also a resource:

<https://esrdnetworks.org/membership/esrd-networks-contact-information/>

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Send them to Dee at the Forum Office
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The Forum is committed to supporting the activities of the ESRD Networks and improving care for all kidney patients.

We have a variety of free educational materials on our website and more under development.

We are a non-profit organization and do all this through volunteer members and limited financial resources.

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