



## Applying for financial aid

Improving life for  
kidney patients

Guidelines for social workers and members of the kidney care team

**We work to improve the quality of life for all patients living with kidney disease. We offer support, information and financial assistance to both adults and children during times of need.**



This leaflet provides a brief overview of what grants may be available from Kidney Care UK and how to apply for financial assistance on behalf of your patients. All applications for patient aid from Kidney Care UK must be made via a Renal Social Worker or a member of a patient's kidney care team.



### **Who is eligible for financial aid?**

Kidney Care UK grants are normally only available to people who are on dialysis, about to start dialysis or within the first year post transplant. In all other circumstances an application must be accompanied by a letter from a Renal Consultant, stating that the patient's renal condition is having a serious impact on their quality of life.

# How can Kidney Care UK help?

## Personal financial aid

If kidney disease is causing personal financial difficulties, Kidney Care UK may be able to help with domestic costs.



### Grants are available for a variety of purposes including:

- Domestic bills
- Heating allowances
- Clothing
- Furnishing
- Carpeting
- Hospital visiting
- Car repairs
- Car insurance
- TV licences
- Funeral grants
- Education grants
- Purchase of electrical domestic appliances
- Telephone installation
- Holidays – travel and accommodation
- Storage – sheds



### Kidney Care UK is NOT able to help with:

- Telephone bills (except installation)
- Court fines
- Improvements to a patient's home including central heating or boiler repairs
- Credit card repayments
- Loan repayments
- Equipment which should be supplied by the hospital
- Business start-up costs
- Consecutive bills for the same service
- Cost of holiday dialysis
- Council tax payments



**When his landlord announced he was selling his house at short notice, Michael faced the prospect of having to pay for removal costs to a new home. He applied to Kidney Care UK and received a grant of £400.**

**“I didn’t have to jump through hundreds of hoops and the cheque arrived in days.”**

Michael, Personal grant recipient

### **Travel costs**

If patients can’t recover the cost of travel to their hospital via the kidney unit itself, Kidney Care UK may be able to help with travel expenses. We don’t help with costs of travel for regular dialysis though.

### **Further education and training**

Kidney Care UK may be able to help with the cost of university or college fees where appropriate or with the costs of books, equipment, lodgings or other expenses involved with educational and job opportunities.

### **Holidays**

Kidney Care UK gives grants to individuals and families towards the cost of a basic holiday in the UK or overseas. The grant can be used to cover the total cost of the holiday if it is modest, or it can be used as a contribution towards the final cost. Payments are made directly to the travel company. We only make one holiday grant per couple, or family, in any two year period.

## Applying for a grant

All applications must be submitted on a Kidney Care UK grant application form which needs to be completed in full. Copies of the application form are available via the website [www.kidneycareuk.org](http://www.kidneycareuk.org) or call the charity on **01420 541424** for a copy.

## Conditions of grants

- The current agreement for those applying for grants is that an individual's current income including benefits should not exceed £1,500 per month and for couples and families the level is £2,000 per month.
- Grants are considered on a case by case basis and there is no guarantee that an application will be successful.
- When requesting items from Kidney Care UK it may be helpful to know that we will normally only consider the least expensive suitable option.
- Any cheques for amounts exceeding £100 will be made payable directly to a company or shop rather than an individual.
- Cheques cannot be made payable to Trusts or hospital social work departments.

## When completing a grant application form please remember to include:

1

The full name, address, telephone number and date of birth of the patient.

2

A full written report on the hospital's letterhead paper.

3

Full details of the help required, amount requested and the name of the company/individual to whom cheques should be made payable.

4

Quotes, estimates or invoices (where appropriate) should be included with the application.

5

Please remember that every grant form must be signed by the patient and social worker, or member of the kidney care team.

**For patient information and factsheets,  
please visit our website.**



**Kidney Care UK fund  
improvements in health and  
care services, including QI  
projects, specialist renal  
equipment, staff and services.**

We also provide support, advice, counselling and financial support for kidney patients and their families. To access our full range of services, please use the contact details below.

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Visit our website at **[www.kidneycareuk.org](http://www.kidneycareuk.org)**  
Call us on **01420 541424**

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**Formerly**

**BRITISH KIDNEY**  
*Patient* ASSOCIATION   
*improving life for kidney patients*