

## **Government Involvement in Dialysis** <sup>[1]</sup>

Although the development of dialysis dates back to the 1940s, the government didn't become more involved in the payment for treatment until the 1960s.

The first significant government response to dialysis first came in 1963, when Veterans Affairs outlined plans to build 30 dialysis units in VA hospitals around the United States. These units were designed for veterans who were eligible for treatment. Throughout 1964 and 1965, Congress established multiple programs to help provide funding for research in dialysis, including the Artificial Kidney-Chronic Uremia Program and Transplant Immunology Program in the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases. By the mid-1960s, the Kidney Disease Control Program (KDCP) had been created as a way to explore the effectiveness of dialysis.

The first legislation to support the funding of dialysis was introduced in 1965, but Congressional hearings on the topic did not occur until five years later. In 1971, the government was addressing debates on national health insurance, including Social Security, Medicare and welfare. In 1972, Congress passed legislation that created a Medicare program to pay for dialysis treatment. The program officially began on July 1, 1973.

© 2017 The Dialysis Patients Citizens (DPC) Education Center. All rights reserved.

Unauthorized use prohibited. The information contained in this website is not a substitute for medical advice or treatment, and consultation with your doctor or healthcare professional is strongly recommended. The DPC Education Center is a section 501(c)(3) non-profit charity (37-1698796). Contributions are tax deductible to the fullest extent permitted by the law.

---

**Source URL:** <http://www.dpcedcenter.org/government-involvement-dialysis>

### **Links**

[1] <http://www.dpcedcenter.org/government-involvement-dialysis>