



Kidney Q&A

0-3 months

Life Options Rehabilitation Program
414 D'Onofrio Drive, Ste. 200
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www.lifeoptions.org

Q: Can my friends and family visit me during dialysis?

A: Centers differ in their visitor policies. Some centers will let a visitor stay with you for your whole treatment. Other centers let a visitor stay for part of a treatment, or not at all.

Some centers *don't* allow visitors because:

- Space is crowded
- They may need to respond quickly in emergencies
- Patient privacy
- Noise
- Infection

Some centers *do* allow visitors because:

- Visitors offer support and help patients pass time during treatment
- A visitor is an extra person who can help the patient adjust the chair or reach for something
- It's easier to teach family visitors about dialysis when they can see the treatment and ask questions
- The center is a more friendly place when visitors can come

Visitors to a dialysis center will need to respect the space and privacy of other patients. Often, only one visitor may be allowed, due to space limits.

What I can do if I want to have a visitor with me:

- Ask my center manager if visitors are allowed, and if not, why not.
- If I don't like the policy, ask if there is another center nearby that allows visitors.
- Think about doing a home form of dialysis (hemodialysis or peritoneal dialysis), where I can have visitors. Visit www.homedialysis.org to learn more.