



# Kidney Q&A

0-3 months

Life Options Rehabilitation Program

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[www.lifeoptions.org](http://www.lifeoptions.org)

## Q: What does the nurse do for me?

**A:** Most nurses working in dialysis are registered or licensed. Depending on state law, some tasks can only be done by nurses. Some states require that only nurses do needle sticks, care for a catheter, give IV drugs, etc.

Your nurse gets and follows orders from your doctor, troubleshoots problems, reviews your lab tests and medical records, and oversees the technicians. Some nurses train people to do home dialysis.

Nurses are often in charge of patient education and training, so your nurse is also a good person to talk to about many of your dialysis questions. If you do peritoneal dialysis (PD), your nurse will train you to do the treatments safely, order your supplies, and recognize and solve problems.

### What *I* can do to work best with my nurses:

- Ask my nurse to tell me how dialysis works and what I can do to get adequate treatment.
- Be honest about how I'm feeling and any symptoms I've been having.
- Bring in my medications for review when my nurse asks me to.
- Ask my nurse to answer non-urgent questions when she has a chance, rather than right away.

- Say "please" when I ask for something, and thank my nurse for my care.
- Be respectful, but speak up if I see any mistakes.
- Ask my nurse to tell me about other treatment options, like home dialysis or transplant.
- Visit module 3 of Kidney School™: *Working with Your Healthcare Team* at [www.kidneyschool.org](http://www.kidneyschool.org) to learn more.