



Indian Health Service Clinical Strategic Initiative Chronic Kidney Disease



Background:

Kidney Disease is among the top 10 leading causes of death in the United States and represents a major health disparity resulting in significant morbidity and mortality among American Indian and Alaska Native people (AI/AN). According to the [American Heart Association](#), chronic kidney disease (CKD) is an important component of cardiovascular-kidney-metabolic (CKM) syndrome, which leads to poor health outcomes. The IHS remains committed to reducing AI/AN health disparities through systematic quality-improvement clinical performance strategies. Mitigating the risk of CKD and End-Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) in AI/AN populations requires a proactive approach that prioritizes recognition of risk factors, evidence-based prevention, screening, early diagnosis and treatment in tribal communities.

Strategic Initiative:

IHS advocates a comprehensive strategy to reduce CKD-related morbidity and mortality among AI/AN people. As part of our [National Chronic Kidney Disease Initiative](#), IHS will support federal, tribal, and Urban Indian Organization (I/T/U) programs as they develop and implement strategies to ensure recognition of risk factors and implementation of guideline-based prevention, screening, diagnosis and treatment of CKD and important associated conditions, including diabetes and hypertension.

Guidance and Resources:

IHS Areas and I/T/U Facilities are encouraged to collaborate with tribal, local, regional, state, academic/professional and federal partners to support a proactive approach to enhance awareness of CKD and risk-factors, take measures to mitigate the risks of CKD, and support evidence-based diagnosis and treatment of CKD through activities such as health education, recognition of risk factors, screening and early diagnosis, and team-based clinical care. In addition, a proactive multi-disciplinary approach is advocated that involves **Area and Facility** leadership as well as staff in medical, pharmacy, nursing, care management/referral care, information technology, and other support roles.

Areas and Facilities are encouraged to;

- Implement guideline-based strategies for the prevention, screening, diagnosis and management of CKD and associated conditions as a routine part of CKD-related care in IHS clinical settings as well as care management/planning, including access to nephrology care, when indicated.
- Support innovative approaches to enhance evidence-based care for CKD in tribal communities. These include education regarding CKD risk factors, screening & early intervention, and system-based protocols to ensure care that aligns with clinical guidelines.