

ADULT HEALTH BULLETIN



APRIL 2025

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THIS MONTH'S TOPIC

APRIL IS NATIONAL KIDNEY MONTH



April is National Kidney Month. This is a time to bring awareness to kidney health and disease prevention. This year's focus is on taking charge of your health and the many factors that go into managing your kidney function. Kidney health is important for overall well-being. The kidneys play a crucial role in our bodies. So, people need to be aware of what their kidneys do and how to support them.

The kidneys filter out waste and extra fluid from the blood, making urine. They also help balance fluids and other nutrients such as electrolytes, sodium, potassium, and calcium. The kidneys also play an important role in producing hormones that help regulate blood pressure. They produce red blood cells and support bone health.

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There are many ways to help protect and support kidney health:

- **Drinking enough water** is crucial for kidney function. Dehydration can strain the kidneys. It makes them less effective.
- **Eating a diet low in sodium**, processed foods, red meat, and high in fruits, vegetables, and whole grains.
- **Being physically active** helps maintain a healthy weight and reduces the risk of conditions like diabetes and high blood pressure that can damage the kidneys.
- **Avoiding smoking and excessive drinking**, as smoking can damage blood vessels, including those in the kidneys. Drinking too much alcohol can cause dehydration and strain the kidneys.

Also, certain health conditions may increase the likelihood of kidney disease. Having high blood pressure or diabetes may increase your health risks. Keeping blood pressure and blood sugar levels within healthy ranges is vital to protect and maintain kidney function.

Kidney function naturally declines with age. So, it becomes even more important to monitor kidney health in older adults, especially those with diabetes, high blood pressure, or a family history

of kidney disease. See a health-care provider if you notice any symptoms of kidney problems. These include changes in urination, swelling, fatigue, or persistent back pain. Regular screenings, especially if you have risk factors (e.g., diabetes, high blood pressure), can help find kidney issues early.

If you are worried about your kidney health, talk to your health-care provider. They can help you decide if you need tests for your kidney function. For example, blood tests can measure the creatinine (waste product) level in the blood, indicating kidney function. Urine tests can help detect protein (which shouldn't be in significant amounts in the urine) and other markers of kidney disease.

Maintaining kidney health involves preventive care, a healthy lifestyle, and regular monitoring. Early detection and management of risk factors can help prevent or slow the progression of kidney disease.

REFERENCE:

<https://www.niddk.nih.gov/health-information/community-health-outreach/national-kidney-month>

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