

Territory Kidney Care

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is Territory Kidney Care?

Territory Kidney Care (TKC) is a new health information system in the NT that helps doctors and nurses better manage your health care by linking your medical information. TKC acts like a monitor, assessing new information (blood results, x-rays, procedures) from different health systems and linking it with old data to make sure new problems are identified early. This is very useful if you have one or more chronic conditions, like diabetes, heart disease, obesity or kidney disease. TKC can pick up problems early to ensure you get the right education and the right treatment at the right time. By linking your health information in one system, TKC makes it easier for specialists to provide support to your GP to better manage your health.



2. Why is it needed?

The NT has the highest rates of chronic conditions in Australia and many people live with 2 or more chronic conditions. This has a huge impact on their health and wellbeing as well their finances. People with chronic conditions are more likely to visit their GP several times a year and have unplanned hospitalisations. This costs governments money as well as patients. In the NT, your medical information is kept by the main health service you attend, and this leaves gaps in the information your doctor may see. To improve the safety and quality of care, many doctors and health services (and governments) think that patients should have one medical record across all health services. TKC aims to provide one record for people who have a chronic condition that puts them at risk of kidney disease.



3. Did you know?

Did you know that some conditions can cause kidney disease? They are diabetes, high blood pressure, obesity, smoking, heart disease and long-term use of some medication. Unfortunately, most people don't know if they have kidney disease until it is too late.



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4. Does this affect me?



Your health service wants to link your health information with information from other health services you attend through Territory Kidney Care (TKC). This will improve the safety and quality of care for people who are at risk of developing kidney disease. If you have one or more of these chronic conditions, then you would benefit from this additional support and monitoring through TKC. TKC will help your doctor in early detection and management of your health.

5. What do I have to do?



Talk to your GP about whether you would benefit from your health information being linked through TKC. You do not have to do anything if you agree. You can change your mind in the future.

6. What are the risks?



If you say "YES"

Your health information will be linked to health professionals who care for you, improving the safety and quality of your care. It will close the information gap by ensuring the same information is available to all clinicians at the same time. This is very important if you need to see multiple health professionals like cardiac, kidney or diabetic specialists as well as allied health like dietitians and occupational therapists. TKC aims for "One patient one record". Your information is safe and secure within NT Health. You can change your mind anytime.



If you say "NO"

Your health information will remain with each health professional you see, and care will continue to be delivered as it has been. However, there are risks to your care when important information about your health is not available or quickly shared with treating healthcare professionals in a timely manner. It means they do not have all the information and a complete picture of your health so they can make decisions.