

# KidneyNews

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## US Preventive Services Task Force Will Consider CKD Screening Recommendation

*USPSTF Responds Positively to Request from Coalition for Kidney Health*

By Eric Seaborg



The US Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) will consider adding screening for chronic kidney disease (CKD) as a potential recommendation in response to a nomination from the Coalition for Kidney Health. The coalition submitted its request in December 2021 and received a response in February 2022, stating that USPSTF has added “Screening for CKD” to its “list of preventive services topics under active consideration.”

The positive response kicks off a thorough, multi-year review, according to Miriam Godwin, health policy director at the National Kidney Foundation (NKF), whom the coalition designated as its contact person in its request to USPSTF. Godwin said that the coalition is asking that USPSTF bring its screening recommendations into concordance with established evidence-based guidelines from the NKF and the American Diabetes Association, which recommend that high-risk individuals be screened for CKD.

The letter from USPSTF notes that the task force has a large portfolio of suggested topics “to work on as part of its deliberative process, and it may take some time” to turn its

attention to CKD. The letter only commits the task force to “begin the process of determining when to begin work on a new recommendation,” and it will decide later whether it will “prioritize” CKD to consider this year.

### Turned down in 2012

USPSTF last reviewed kidney screening in 2012 and concluded that “the evidence on routine screening for CKD in asymptomatic adults is lacking and that the balance of benefits and harms cannot be determined.” But the coalition notes that this nomination is different because “rather than general population or mass screening,” it wants the task force to consider current evidence that supports testing of individuals at risk for CKD, including those with diabetes, hypertension, cardiovascular disease, family history of kidney diseases, or a history of acute kidney injury.

In the 2012 review, the task force found little evidence of a benefit from early intervention and even “convincing evidence...that medications used to treat early CKD may have adverse effects.” But the drug-treatment realm has changed

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## ASN Commits to Reconsidering Future of Nephrology

By Eric Seaborg

ASN plans to lead the kidney community in reconsidering “every aspect of the future of nephrology” over the next 8 months, ASN President Susan E. Quaggin, MD, said in a March letter to the American Board of Internal Medicine (ABIM) Nephrology Board and the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME).

Quaggin was responding to separate messages from the two organizations asking for ASN’s input on major revisions of their certification and training program requirements.

In a letter to Quaggin in January, the ABIM Nephrology Board wrote, “For some time the nephrology community has grappled with whether or not certain procedures (temporary dialysis catheters and kidney biopsies) should remain a required procedure for nephrology fellows to learn to perform competently and whether other requirements should be strengthened like training for peritoneal and home hemodialysis.” The letter asked for ASN to share its views on these and other procedures by February 25.

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### New educational tools contest

Contest aims to promote educational tools spanning heart disease and kidney diseases.