

What are the stages of chronic kidney disease (CKD)?

In chronic kidney disease, the kidneys don't usually fail all at once. Instead, kidney disease often progresses slowly, over a period of years. This is good news because, if CKD is caught early, medications and lifestyle changes may help slow its progress and keep you feeling your best for as long as possible. With early diagnosis, it may be possible to slow, stop, or even reverse CKD, depending on the cause. The National Kidney Foundation (NKF) recently published information on the stages of Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD). In the table below, the "GFR level," or glomerular filtration rate, is a measure of how well your kidneys are cleaning your blood. Your doctor can calculate your GFR, based on a formula.

Stages of chronic kidney disease

Stage	Description	GFR Level
Normal kidney function	Healthy kidneys	90 mL/min or more
Stage 1	Kidney damage with normal or high GFR	90 mL/min or more
Stage 2	Kidney damage and mild decrease in GFR	60 to 89 mL/min
Stage 3	Moderate decrease in GFR	30 to 59 mL/min
Stage 4	Severe decrease in GFR	15 to 29 mL/min
Stage 5	Kidney failure	Less than 15 mL/min or on dialysis