



Glossary

NOTES:

Acute kidney injury Rapid, sudden loss of kidney function, often reversible.

Albumin A protein that, if present in the urine, may indicate damage to the kidneys.

Alpha-blockers Medication used to lower blood pressure if other blood pressure medications cannot be tolerated.

Angiotensin-converting enzyme (ACE) inhibitors or angiotensin receptor blockers (ARB) These are commonly prescribed blood pressure medications that are designed to protect your kidney function and reduce the amount of albumin in your urine.

Beta-blocker Medication used to manage heart conditions and blood pressure.

Bladder An expandable sack that collects and holds urine.

Calcium Mineral that is important for bone growth and body function.

Calcium channel blockers These medications reduce blood pressure.

Cholesterol A type of fat found in most body tissues.

Chronic kidney disease (CKD) Kidney function that is less than normal and will never get better. This condition might be mild or it may slowly get worse and could lead to complete kidney failure.

Conservative care A treatment option that aims to provide physical and emotional comfort care, instead of extended life. Also known as *non-dialysis supportive care*.

Creatinine Waste product of muscle activity.

Diabetes Disease of the pancreas in which the production of insulin is decreased or absent (Type 1) or in which the body does not use the insulin that the pancreas makes (Type 2).

Dialysis From Greek, meaning "to separate or dissolve." A treatment for kidney failure that removes wastes and water from the blood.



Glossary

NOTES:

Kidney One of two organs located at the back of the abdominal cavity on each side of the spinal column.

Kidney Connect and kidneyconnect.ca The Kidney Foundation of Canada's peer support programs where people living with kidney disease can share their experiences.

Kidney failure Progressive deterioration in kidney function. Also called *end-stage kidney disease (ESKD)*.

Lupus Commonly used term for *systemic lupus erythematosus*.

Nephritis See *glomerulonephritis*.

Nephron The functional unit of the kidney that acts to maintain the body's chemical balance. Consists of a filter (glomerulus) attached to a tubule.

Non-dialysis supportive care A treatment option that aims to provide physical and emotional comfort care, instead of extended life. Also known as *conservative care*.

Phosphorus (phosphate) Mineral in many nutritious foods. The kidneys regulate it in the body fluids. At normal levels, keeps bones strong and healthy. At high levels, causes itching, painful joints, and bone disease.

Polycystic kidney disease An inherited disease of the kidneys in which the kidneys become very large and have a bumpy surface because of fluid-filled cysts.

Potassium Mineral in the body fluids regulated by the kidneys. At normal levels, helps nerves and muscles work well. At high levels, may stop the heart.

Protein Substance obtained from food that builds, repairs and maintains body tissues. High sources of protein are mainly from animal foods.



Medications

NOTES:

This chart lists some medications used in treating various aspects of kidney disease and kidney failure. This handbook does not discuss all of these medications.

GENERIC NAME	SOME COMMON BRAND NAMES	TYPE/CLASS OF MEDICATION
ACEBUTOLOL	Sectral®	Beta-blocker/blood pressure
ACETAMINOPHEN	Tylenol®	Pain/fever
AMILORIDE		Diuretic/water pill
AMLODIPINE	Norvasc®	Calcium channel blocker/blood pressure
ATENOLOL	Tenormin®	Beta-blocker/blood pressure
ATORVASTATIN	Lipitor®	Statin/cholesterol
BENAZEPRIL	Lotensin®	Angiotensin-converting enzyme (ACE) inhibitors
BISOPROLOL		Beta-blocker/blood pressure
CANDESARTAN	Atacand®	Angiotensin receptor blockers (ARB)
CAPTOPRIL	Capoten®	Angiotensin-converting enzyme (ACE) inhibitors
CARVEDILOL	Coreg®	Beta-blocker/blood pressure
CHLORTHALIDONE		Diuretic/water pill
DILTIAZEM	Tiazac®, Cardizem®	Calcium channel blocker/blood pressure
ENALAPRIL	Vasotec®	Angiotensin-converting enzyme (ACE) inhibitors
EZETIMIBE	Ezetrol®	Cholesterol
FELODIPINE	Plendil®	Calcium channel blocker/blood pressure
FENOFIBRATE	Lipidil®	Fibrate/cholesterol
FLUVASTATIN	Lescol®	Statin/cholesterol
FOSINOPRIL	Monopril®	Angiotensin-converting enzyme (ACE) inhibitors
FUROSEMIDE	Lasix®	Diuretic/water pill
GEMFIBROZIL	Lopid®	Fibrate/cholesterol

