

Chronic Kidney Disease

Patient Information

We recommend regular GP care (family doctor)

Your Nephrologist (kidney specialist) is the main doctor looking after your child's healthcare for their kidney condition.

GPs are family doctors who work together with the WCH Nephrologist team to care for your child. It is important for your child to choose a 'main GP' who can be the doctor for all the other health issues that children sometimes have like skin problems, ear problems, sporting injuries and even concerns about learning or behaviour.



Your child's GP can also partner with the WCH Nephrology team so that some of your child's kidney-related health care is closer to home.

If you do not have a 'main GP' for your family, we can help connect you with a GP and medical centre close to home- just ask!

GP Care Plan (GP management plan/ GPMP)

GPs are experts at working with families to develop a care plan for the year ahead that takes into consideration not only your child's kidney health, but also other medical conditions, psychological health and general wellbeing. Care plans are generally booked once a year with your main GP (and often their nurse) and they can access Medicare funding toward private allied health care (such as a podiatrist or physiotherapist) for up to 5 allied health visits per calendar year under a Medicare 'Team care arrangement'.

Mental Health Care Plan

Thoughts and feelings are an important part of young people's health and wellbeing. If you have any concerns about how your child is feeling, a good place to start is to talk to their GP. They can provide advice and strategies that may be helpful. Sometimes your child's GP may recommend a 'mental health care plan' and refer your child to a psychologist, counsellor, or psychiatrist for additional support. This plan provides access to Medicare funding toward private psychology, generally up to 6–10 visits per year.

Gap payments are often required, but there is a 'Medicare safety net' that provides increased financial support for families who have high medical out of pocket costs:

<https://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/medicare-safety-nets>

GP Annual Health Checks

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children are also eligible for an annual GP health and wellbeing check-up under Medicare. It also provides access to Medicare funding toward 5 allied health visits in addition to the other care plans.

**Please check if your family is eligible for Medicare insurance.*

For more information

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