



## Conversation Starter to Support Gainful Employment for Dialysis Patients

Want to start working or keep working, but afraid of losing your benefits? The Social Security Administration and State Vocational Rehabilitation Services offer financial and workforce training programs to kidney patients looking to obtain or maintain employment.

**Q I'm interested in working, but I'm unsure if it's the best decision for me. Where should I start?**

**A** Your social worker is a great resource to get you started. Your social worker can help you organize the information you will need to contact a local Employment Network or State Vocational Rehabilitation Services. After you make your first call, the vocational rehabilitation agency will discuss the various programs offered and how they relate to you.

**Q My job of choice involves last minute travel, how can I do that with dialysis treatment scheduled three times per week?**

**A** While there are dialysis clinics worldwide and scheduling out of town treatments is common, consider having a discussion about treatment options with your nephrologist to determine if home dialysis is an option for you. Traveling for business (or leisure) can be as simple as 'packing a bag' with home dialysis treatments.

**Q I haven't worked in so long. What if I don't know how to use the technologies of today?**

**A** After you have applied and received approval for Vocational Rehabilitation/Employment Services, an employment counselor will guide you on job-training courses to enhance your current skill set. Many courses are offered at no cost to you through Vocational Rehabilitation Services.

**Q My goal is to get on the transplant list. How can returning to work help me get there?**

**A** Healthcare expenses are costly and receiving a transplant can be expensive. Working while you wait for a transplant gives you the opportunity to save money for transplant related costs such as transportation to appointments, prescriptions, and insurance premiums.



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**ESRDNetwork10.org | ESRDNetwork12.org**

To file a grievance, please contact:

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