



## Kidney Vocabulary List

Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) is common among adults in the United States. More than 37 million American adults may have CKD. This list of vocabulary words has been created to support discussions around kidney disease to learn about how kidneys work and why they are so important.

### A

**Albumin:** An albumin blood test measures the amount of albumin in your blood. Low albumin levels can indicate a problem with your liver or kidneys.

**Albuminuria:** When you have albumin (protein) in your urine, it is called “albuminuria” or “proteinuria.”

**AVF (Arteriovenous Fistula):** An arteriovenous fistula, or AVF, is a vessel that is formed by joining a vein to an artery in your arm during an operation to form an accessible blood vessel that gives increased flows of blood that are adequate for dialysis.

### B

**Bladder:** An organ in your body that holds urine produced by kidneys.

**Blood pressure:** The force of blood pushing against the inner walls of blood vessels.

**BUN (blood, urea, nitrogen):** A BUN, or blood urea nitrogen test, measures the amount of urea nitrogen in your blood. Higher than normal BUN levels may be a sign that your kidneys aren't working efficiently.



## C

Chronic: Constant, long-term, does not go away.

Chronic disease: A health problem that lasts many years (or forever) and may get worse over time.

Creatinine: The creatinine blood test measures the level of creatinine in the blood. The result of this blood test is useful, as it is an important marker of how well the kidneys are working.

## D

Diabetes: A disease that causes blood sugar levels to go up.

Dialysis: A procedure that filters waste products and extra water from your blood. It is one of the main treatments for kidney failure.

## G

GFR (glomerular filtration rate): A measure of kidney function, which tests how well kidneys are working.

## I

Inherited: Something you were born with and get from your mother or father, like red hair or blue eyes.

## H

High blood pressure: The force of blood pushing against the inner walls of the blood vessels is too high.

## K

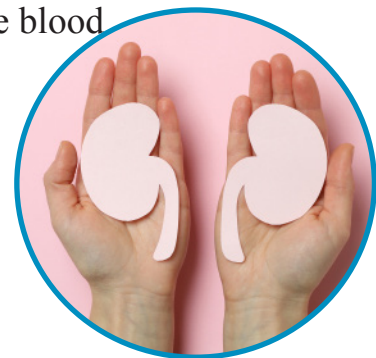
Kidneys: Two bean-shaped organs in your body. Kidneys clean the blood, help make red blood cells, and keep bones healthy.

Kidney disease: The loss of some kidney function. It means your kidneys cannot work as well as healthy kidneys. Kidney disease can be treated.

Kidney failure: The loss of all kidney function. It means your kidneys have stopped working. You will need a kidney transplant or dialysis treatment for the rest of your life.

## O

Organ: A body part that does an important job. For example, the heart, kidneys, and liver are organs.



## R

**Red blood cells:** Cells in your blood that carry oxygen to all parts of your body.

**Risk factors:** Something that increases your risk. For example, diabetes increases your risk for kidney disease.

## S

**Symptoms:** A change in your body that alerts you that something is wrong. It may mean you have an illness or disease.

## T

**Treatment plan:** A plan of medical care to help you get well, or to keep an illness or disease from getting worse.

**Transplant:** An operation to put a healthy organ in your body.

## U

**Ureters:** Two tubes that carry urine from the kidney to the bladder.

**Urethra:** A tube that carries urine out of the bladder when you go to the bathroom.

**Urinary system (also called “Urinary tract”):** A system in your body that includes the kidneys, ureters, bladder, and urethra. It acts as a plumbing system to drain urine from the kidneys, store it, and then release it when you urinate.

**Urine:** A yellowish liquid made by the kidneys. Your kidneys make urine as a way to remove waste products and extra water that your body.

**SOURCE:** <https://www.kidney.org/atoz/content/simple-kidney-vocabulary-list>

