What is Dialysis Facility Compare (DFC)?

Dialysis Facility Compare (DFC) is a Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) website that helps you learn about specific dialysis clinics and the care they provide. The website is www.medicare.gov/dialysisfacilitycompare/. DFC can be used by patients, family members, and the health care team. The website helps you compare dialysis centers in your area or where you plan to travel.

The DFC website provides the following information:

* Address and phone number
* Shifts starting after 5:00 p.m.
* Types of dialysis offered (in-center or home dialysis)
* Facility ownership (profit or nonprofit)
* Number of hemodialysis chairs
* Star ratings for quality of patient care and patient experience of care. (These ratings show how well a dialysis center provides care compared to the national average. One star is the lowest rating, and 5 stars is the highest rating.)

Why should I use DFC?

If you are new to dialysis or planning to travel, DFC can help you find the best clinic for you.

* DFC can help you learn more about clinics in your area
* DFC allows you to search for dialysis centers closest to a particular city or zip code
* You can compare dialysis centers and find the right one for you

The DFC home page has a menu bar with these tabs:

* About Dialysis Facility Compare: Use this page to learn about dialysis centers and the services they provide.
* About the Data: This page provides the types and sources of data found on the DFC website.
* Resources: This page has information about kidney disease, dialysis, and other resources. There is a dialysis facility checklist to help patients choose a clinic and patient rights. You may email dialysisdata@umich.edu with any questions.
* Help: Use this page to get step-by-step instructions with pictures on how to use the DFC website.

Helpful Tips:

Dialysis Facility Compare (DFC) provides good information. You should use it along with other information when choosing the right facility for you or your loved one. You should:

* Talk to your doctor about your choices
* Visit the centers that interest you
* Talk to the dialysis center staff and patients
* Review the DFC Patient Checklist that is on the DFC website to help you choose a dialysis center at https://www.medicare.gov/dialysisfacilitycompare/

Please take a moment to complete a short survey about this Handout, we appreciate your feedback:

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/DFCUserEval
How to Use Dialysis Facility Compare (DFC)

1. Go to: www.medicare.gov/dialysisfacilitycompare/

2. Enter the zip code, city, state, or facility name and click “Search.”

3. Select the dialysis facility you would like to learn about.

   You can choose up to 3 facilities to compare while you decide which unit is best for you.

4. You can see the general information, survey of patients’ experiences, and/or quality of patient care.

Developed by members of the ESRD Networks in collaboration with the National Forum of ESRD Networks  www.esrdnetworks.org
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