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National Policy for CKD : Korea

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Chronic kidney disease (CKD) is a rapidly growing disease in Korea as well as in many countries in the world. The prevalence of CKD in Korea is estimated to be around 13% of adult population and the number of end-stage kidney disease (ESKD) is 1,800 patients per million population (pmp). CKD not only leads to dialysis or kidney transplantation but is also a major threat to premature death and cardiovascular complications.

Korean government, in concert with the Korean nephrology society has endeavored for establishing early detection and early intervention program for CKD. It has a quality assessment system for hemodialysis (HD) centers entitled "HD Center Accreditation Program". The National Health Insurance System has begun to reimburse CKD education program and, recently launched a pilot program for home management for peritoneal dialysis. Korean government also funded large-scale national cohorts for CKD and ESKD, which are entitled as 'KNOW-CKD' and 'CRC for ESRD', respectively.

Finally, through the collaborative efforts of the Korean government and the Korean nephrology society, we hope that the incidence and health-care burden of CKD will eventually under control.