

Kidney failure is when the kidneys don't work as they should, this could be because of inadequate blood flow to the kidney for it to filter. Kidney failure can be treated through two different methods: dialysis or transplant. A dialysis machine is used for patients who are waiting for a kidney transplant and it is not a permanent solution. Dialysis machines act as an artificial kidney for a patient and enables them to maintain their health. Unlike a kidney transplant dialysis doesn't carry the risks of surgery and there is no risk of possible rejection by the body. Dialysis also does not require daily medication. However dialysis does have its disadvantages, dialysis machines are expensive and with using them carries the risk of infection and blood clots. This treatment also requires that a patient has to travel to hospital every day - in some cases three or four times a week- and must also stay there for several hours while they receive treatment. Patients must also follow a restricted diet that is low on sodium. The second form of treatment, Kidney transplant, is a procedure which involves implanting a kidney from an organ donor to replace the failing kidneys. After kidney transplant patients are able to live a relatively normal life and this treatment is overall, less expensive for the NHS. With a transplant there is also a lower risk of infection and blood clots than the dialysis treatment. However after treatment the patient must take immunosuppressant drugs in order to avoid the kidney rejecting which does increase the risk of illness. There is also the general risk of the operation itself and the body rejecting. Alongside this there are a shortage of organ donors meaning the operation could become completely impossible without the necessary organs. Kidney transplants often only last up to ten years making the treatment not permanent.