

# The Renal Social Workers

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**This leaflet is for patients with renal (kidney) conditions and outlines how the renal social workers can help support you and your family.**

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## Who we are and what we do

The renal social workers work within the team of doctors, nurses, dietitians, pharmacist and psychologist, who are involved in your care.

They work with people before they come to dialysis, dialysis patients and those who have had a kidney transplant.

They meet patients and their families at home, on the renal unit and in the hospital wards. They are aware how having someone with kidney failure in the family affects everyone and are here to offer support to all family members and carers.

## How we can help you

The renal social workers can give advice and support on a range of personal, emotional and practical matters. They offer help on a variety of issues including:

- Benefits and finances
- Grants from charities
- Referral to occupational therapists for aids and adaptations
- Liaison with housing departments
- Hospital discharge planning
- Help at home, meals on wheels
- Emergency alarm systems
- Holiday grants
- Residential and nursing homes.

Living with kidney failure does present challenges and problems. It can be helpful to talk with someone from the renal team about this. The renal social work service offers you and your family that opportunity.

## Contacting us

If you would like to talk to a social worker, please ask any member of the renal team or call direct on 0118 322 8772. They are usually around Monday to Friday from 9am until 5pm. If you do not get an answer, please leave a message as they may be out visiting and can call you back on their return.

To find out more about our Trust visit [www.royalberkshire.nhs.uk](http://www.royalberkshire.nhs.uk)

**Please ask if you need this information in another language or format.**

Department of Renal Medicine, April 2023. Next review due: April 2025.

Compassionate

Aspirational

Resourceful

Excellent