

Readers' Forum

Dear Editor:

Congratulations to the *North Carolina Medical Journal* for doing such an outstanding and thorough job of reporting the problem of chronic kidney disease in North Carolina. It is the goal of the National Kidney Foundation of North Carolina to reduce the burden of CKD throughout our state. The scope and effect of this disease takes a tremendous toll on the quality of life of our citizens and places a huge burden on our medical community to treat. There won't be enough nephrologists to treat all the people who will be diagnosed with CKD within the next 10 years. Medicare pays for kidney dialysis and kidney transplants for patients who are under age 65 or are not disabled. No other disease is covered by Medicare in this way—not breast cancer or HIV/AIDS or any of the other diseases we hear about.



The National Kidney Foundation of North Carolina will launch its Kidneyville Cruiser, a 48-foot interactive mobile education and screening unit designed to deliver health and hope to North Carolinians at risk for CKD. Because of the emphasis the North Carolina Institute of Medicine and the *North Carolina Medical Journal* have placed on CKD, we feel now more than ever is the right time to invest our resources in a highly visible, mobile experience that will provide our state with lifesaving screening and education.

For more information about the Kidneyville Cruiser, contact Denise Hockaday, senior vice president of programs at dhockaday (at) nkfnc.org or 800.356.5362.

*Leanne Skipper, CEO
National Kidney Foundation of North Carolina*

If you work in a health care setting . . .

Get a Flu Shot!

Or Nasal-Spray Vaccine*

Protect Yourself

You are likely to be exposed to flu at work. If you don't get flu vaccine, you can catch the flu and become very sick. The flu is a lot worse than a cold.

Protect Your Family

You can spread the flu even before you feel sick. Your family and friends could become seriously ill, especially babies and older adults. Likewise, your family and friends could miss days of school or work.

Protect Your Patients

You can also spread the flu to your patients. For some patients, flu can be a life threatening disease.

* If you are under 50 and are not pregnant, you can get the nasal-spray vaccine instead of a shot. However, do not get the nasal-spray vaccine if you have a chronic disease like asthma or diabetes, or work in a hospital isolation unit.

Have questions? Visit www.immunizenc.com or call the

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Hotline:

1-800-CDC-INFO 1-800-232-4636.



State of North Carolina • Department of Health and Human Services • www.ncdhhs.gov • N.C. DHHS is an equal opportunity employer and provider. 08/07