

New eco-friendly water systems for Northwest Kidney Centers



Dan Harris, facilities systems specialist, oversees the new Aquaboss system at our Lake City clinic. The system purifies water for dialysis.

To cleanse the blood of toxins and excess fluid, dialysis requires high quality water – lots of it. Pacific Northwest groundwater is among the purest in the world, but still Northwest Kidney Centers filters and treats tap water to meet the quality standards needed for dialysis.

We're making our water even better with a new cutting edge treatment system called Aquaboss. Lake City was the first of our clinics to have it installed, and in the next year our SeaTac, Renton and Scribner at Northgate clinics will follow. Eventually, all 15 of our locations will use it.

“There is no other system like it. It's the best you can buy,” says Scott Hansen, technical services director at Northwest Kidney Centers. While technically minded people such as Hansen appreciate Aquaboss's complex technology, anyone can appreciate the results. The new system uses less water through recycling, costs less to maintain and uses heat to disinfect the system instead of chemicals, resulting in better patient safety.

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Environmentally friendly

The Aquaboss conserves water because it operates on-demand and reuses water when possible rather than sending it down the drain. Since the Aquaboss came on line, water usage at the Lake City clinic has decreased by about 23 percent.

No chemicals, less staff time

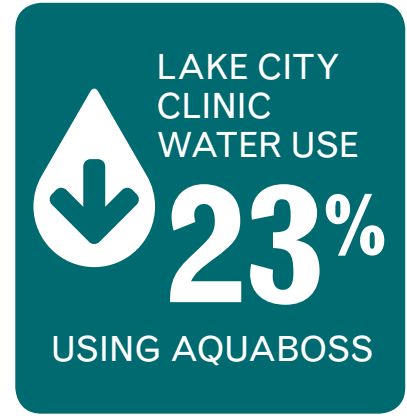
The Aquaboss can be programmed to disinfect itself. Staff members save time as they no longer have to prepare cleaning solution to manually treat the system.

Dan Harris, facilities system specialist for our Lake City and Northgate clinics, has the unique perspective of managing both the Aquaboss and our existing water system. He's been impressed as he's learned the new system and especially appreciates the self-cleaning feature of the Aquaboss.

"Our other systems are very reliable at delivering the water quality we need for our patients. They're also easy to maintain, but the Aquaboss is a step up," he said. "I don't have to physically be here to clean the system, and that allows me several hours a week to work on other things."

Testing the waters

Northwest Kidney Centers regularly tests the water at our 15 dialysis clinics for more than 20 different chemical contaminants and conditions, including pH, conductivity and elements such as sodium, potassium, aluminum and calcium. Our purification equipment ensures that the water used for dialysis meets or surpasses standards of the Association for the Advancement of Medical Instrumentation.



New equipment to serve area hospital patients

If you or someone you know has received dialysis at a local hospital, chances are a nurse from Northwest Kidney Centers provided the life-sustaining treatment.

Our Hospital Services team recently received 50 dialysis machines and 50 new portable water treatment units, dramatically improving our efficiency in providing dialysis to patients at nine King County hospitals.

Hospital Services RNs Melina Randall and Duane Schaff transport a hospital water treatment machine.



Wilson Trust gift helps with home hemodialysis training

Thanks to support from the Harry L. and Clare Cayo Wilson Trust, Northwest Kidney Centers recently purchased four new home hemodialysis machines and four new water treatment units to go with them.

The new machines will be used to teach people who want to give themselves hemodialysis at home. Eighteen percent of our patients get dialysis at home, and one out of six chooses hemodialysis; the remainder use peritoneal dialysis.

It's important for people with kidney disease to know their treatment options when first diagnosed. Prior to his transplant, Robert Johnson learned how to perform dialysis safely and effectively at home from our home hemodialysis team.

Emergency generator will keep the lights on at Broadway

For dialysis patients, missing even a single treatment can cause serious issues. A power outage can be a big problem. Thanks to generous donors and a state community improvement grant, that won't occur anytime soon at our Broadway clinic in Seattle. The roof of the clinic now sports a brand new generator to provide reliable backup power for lights, dialysis machines, our pharmacy and other building systems. The installation was made possible by generous support from the State of Washington, PACCAR Foundation, the John Moffitt Foundation, the Norcliffe Foundation and the Puget Sound Energy Foundation.



Workers prepare the base for the new emergency generator installed at the Broadway community dialysis clinic at 700 Broadway in Seattle. The equipment ensures reliable patient access to life-saving dialysis treatments.



Have you considered including Northwest Kidney Centers in your will?

Making a will is an important way to extend your love, care, generosity and gratitude to family, friends and the charitable causes you care about. A gift in your will, called a bequest, may be the best way to make a meaningful gift to Northwest Kidney Centers. Your bequest will help ensure our mission will be carried out in the future. With a few sentences in your will, you can have a lasting impact on patient care.

Leave a legacy – it's simple.

To find out how, contact:

Larry Richards
gift planning officer

206-720-8550

Legacy@nwkidney.org

We are happy to help, without obligation and in confidence.

Explore www.nwkidney.org/plannedgiving to find out more about leaving a legacy gift or becoming a Heritage Society member.

Breakfast of Hope – a lively morning in support of patients

Heartfelt thanks to our supporters and donors! At the Breakfast of Hope on May 5, we raised \$390,442 and counting (an increase over last year's total!) that will go toward patient support services and charity care. More than 650 people attended the event at the Westin Seattle. Find more photos and videos on www.nwkidney.org.

Breakfast speaker Bill Peckham, Northwest Kidney Centers patient and past chair of the board of trustees.



The audience responds to Bill Peckham's story of 25 years with kidney failure and his challenge to "live the life you were meant to live."

A five-year plan with the patient at heart

Northwest Kidney Centers recently unveiled its strategic plan for 2016- 2021. The strategic plan is the road map we will follow as we carry out our mission to promote the optimal health, quality of life and independence of people with kidney disease through patient care, education and research.



Strategic Plan 2016-2021

Care Better

Care model transformation and community health improvement.

Redesign care models to deliver or manage clinically integrated services across the continuum. Improve health of a defined population of people with kidney disease. Use research to make care better.

Grow Bigger

Growth strategies.

Extend our geographic footprint through a broad range of services, alternative sites and focus on targeted growth areas.

Perform Better

Quality, safety and cost management.

Develop staff, streamline work and improve care. Be the region's leader in high-value health care services, demonstrated by high quality and safety, exceptional patient experience and competitive overall cost.

Grow Together

Local, regional and national partnerships.

Establish strategic partnerships and alliances with other dialysis centers, health systems, nephrologists, payers and other providers that enhance our ability to meet the needs of kidney disease patients.

ENABLED BY PEOPLE, TECHNOLOGY, RESEARCH, PHILANTHROPY



Open house at remodeled Elliott Bay clinic

Community members, patients, donors and staff celebrated the transformed Elliott Bay clinic during an open house on May 26. Located at 600 Broadway in Seattle, the clinic was extensively remodeled to increase patient safety and comfort and to improve staff work flow.

Speaking at the open house, Debra Entenman, deputy district director for Congressman Adam Smith, noted the important role that Northwest Kidney Centers plays, particularly in south King County where the need for dialysis has grown in recent years.

Clinical trials prove concept of wearable artificial kidney

Investigators from the Kidney Research Institute, a collaboration between Northwest Kidney Centers and UW Medicine, recently published the results of the first clinical trial of a wearable artificial kidney. The goal was to determine the safety and efficacy of the 10-pound device.

The wearable artificial kidney represents a major step in dialysis treatment, as it allow users true mobility and more flexibility. Patients dialyze continually instead of spending up to four hours in dialysis three days each week; it also eliminates the need for diet restrictions.

“The goal of this is to provide patients of the future with new opportunities to lead a different kind of life with kidney dialysis,” says Kidney Research Institute director, Dr. Jonathan Himmelfarb.

The results were positive as the unit effectively cleansed the blood of toxins. However, the trial exposed some technical problems. Now the development team will begin planning and designing the next prototype.



Built on top of a standard work belt from Home Depot, the 10-pound wearable artificial kidney has profound implications for the future of kidney dialysis.

Northwest Kidney Centers makes significant commitments at White House summit on organ transplants



Northwest Kidney Centers recently joined dozens of companies, foundations, universities, hospitals and advocacy groups from across the country to support a White House-sponsored summit on organ transplants. From the public to the private sector, from microscopic work with stem cells to big picture projects transforming technology systems, the summit galvanized thought and energy around increased organ availability and decreased waiting time for patients.

White House officials billed the summit as an “essential step toward increasing access to organ transplants and reducing the organ waiting list.” Its goals were to increase the number of people who register as organ donors, to increase the number of transplants and improve patient outcomes, and to change what might be possible by facilitating breakthrough research and development.

In support of the Administration’s goals, Northwest Kidney Centers has committed to:

- Increasing the proportion of our dialysis patients who get a transplant to 10 percent, twice the current national average, within five years. Four percent of our patients – 70 out of 1,561 – got a transplant last year.
- Implementing a navigation service for chronic kidney disease patients to provide individualized assistance from a registered nurse to help them navigate the medical system, eliminate barriers and move toward transplant or other treatment that is optimal for them. We’ll launch the services with patients from one south King County nephrology practice, and scale up based on lessons learned.
- Expanding access to classes that help patients understand the transplant process, how to prepare for a transplant, living and deceased donors, the wait list and more. Using our new \$400,000 teleconferencing system for this purpose will allow more people, including those in rural areas and those unable to travel long distances, to participate at nearby locations and at convenient times.
- Pledging a \$1.2 million investment in the Kidney Research Institute, which plans to open the new Center for Dialysis Innovation in the fall. The Center for Dialysis Innovation will focus on extending the lifetimes of people with irreversible kidney failure, improving their quality of life and increasing opportunities for rehabilitation and transplant. The Kidney Research Institute is a collaboration between Northwest Kidney Centers and UW Medicine.



Mark your calendar

Discovery Gala

October 29, 2016

5:30 - 11 p.m.

Hyatt Regency Bellevue
900 Bellevue Way NE



www.nwkidney.org
pr@nwkidney.org
206-292-2771



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Northwest Kidney Centers promotes the optimal health, quality of life and independence of people with kidney disease through patient care, education and research.



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We've joined the fight against diabetes in a big way

Northwest Kidney Centers sponsored the American Diabetes Association's annual Tour de Cure on May 22. More than 70 Northwest Kidney Centers team members rode bikes or walked in the event at Chateau Ste. Michelle in Woodinville. Our president and CEO, Joyce Jackson, spoke at the event, and later walked with the team. The Tour raised funds for research, education and advocacy efforts in Washington and across the country.

Our support of the ADA is one of the first activities in a new community diabetes kidney health initiative. We want to reduce the number of people coming to us with incurable kidney damage – and diabetes is the single leading cause of kidney failure among our dialysis patients. So far this year, our sponsorship has helped the ADA produce an awareness-building insert in the Puget Sound Business Journal, and to publicize ADA observances like Get Fit, Don't Sit. And more collaboration is on the horizon.



More than 70 people representing Northwest Kidney Centers joined the fight against diabetes at the American Diabetes Association's annual Tour de Cure. Diabetes is a leading cause of kidney disease.