

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**Austin T. Ross named Vice President of Planning at
Northwest Kidney Centers**

Seattle, WA (Jan. 10, 2013): Austin T. Ross has been named vice president of planning at [Northwest Kidney Centers](http://www.nwkidney.org). He will be responsible for strategic planning, facilities development, state of Washington Certificate of Need management, and capital projects. He also will supervise compliance, risk management, privacy and plant operations for Northwest Kidney Centers facilities, including its 15 dialysis centers.

Ross has worked at Virginia Mason Medical Center in Seattle for the past 21 years, most recently as vice president of the Virginia Mason LLC Health Resources Services, a group purchasing organization. In that position he oversaw marketing, sales and business development in five Western states in addition to serving as the compliance officer. During his career he has helped hospital and non-acute care organizations implement cost-reduction initiatives within materials management, imaging, pharmacy, laboratory, dietary and administration.

"We are excited to have Austin on our team because of his diverse experience working in health care and strong commitment to ethics," said Joyce F. Jackson, president and chief executive officer of Northwest Kidney Centers. "He's worked with health systems, physicians and hospitals throughout the country and is very well acquainted with the local health care community and national health trends."

Ross earned a Masters of Health Administration from the University of Washington in 2010. He is knowledgeable about the lean management system that Virginia Mason is known for.

"I have always been impressed with the quality of care at Northwest Kidney Centers and its never-ending drive to provide life-saving services for patients," said Ross. "I see this organization and its leaders as making a significant difference with kidney disease, and it is an honor to help bring further focus on strategic planning and facility safety to make this possible."

Ross is a member of the American College of Healthcare Executives and the Association for Healthcare Resource and Materials Management. He served for nine years on the board of directors of the Western States Healthcare Materials Management Association.

Northwest Kidney Centers is a regional, not-for-profit, locally run provider of kidney dialysis, public health education and research into the causes and treatments of chronic kidney disease. Founded in Seattle in 1962, it was the world's first dialysis organization. It remains a model in the field because of its high quality services, community connections and generous donor support. Its website is www.nwkidney.org.

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