



1969 – 2009

40 years of KfH
for our patients



KfH Kuratorium für Dialyse und
Nierentransplantation e.V.

Gemeinnützige Körperschaft

ON TRACK FOR THE FUTURE WITH KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE

IMPRINT

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01

WHAT WE WORK FOR

Our social responsibility



>> FOR THE PATIENT

The health-care system is changing at a breath-taking pace and patient care is more often than not driven by market mechanisms – which is not always the best thing for patients. This scenario spells out a special social and health-care responsibility in the health-care system for public service organisations such as KfH. KfH is now the first (and for a long time was the only) organisation dedicated to treating patients with chronic kidney ailments in Germany. It is a reliable and indispensable partner in the health-care system with a special social responsibility. We always keep the patient and their well-being in mind in our work from various perspectives. We use the funds made available to us effectively and economically for the sake of our patients.

COMPREHENSIVE PATIENT CARE

Today, as many as one third of all dialysis patients in Germany are treated in KfH's over 200 medically managed kidney centres. KfH's intensive social care is a component of its comprehensive patient service package that goes beyond medical treatment, bearing many patients' average age and social background in mind.

HELPING KFH'S PATIENTS IN DIRE ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES

Dialysis patients are pushed to the limits by their ailment whilst being encumbered in a number of ways. They often come into dire economic circumstances because of their disease without it being their fault. KfH's Emergency Assistance Foundation for Persons with Kidney Diseases feels it is their duty to help. It was created in 2001 by Dr. Klaus Ketzler, the co-founder of KfH and its longstanding chairperson.

OUR MISSION

We believe we have both a social and health-care responsibility for ensuring the long-term care of persons suffering from kidney ailments. That starts at the prevention stage with chronic kidney ailments to ensure there is no necessity of dialysis. Dialysis patients have the best possible type of dialysis treatment available, ranging from home dialysis (home hemodialysis or peritoneal dialysis) right down to dialysis in our kidney centre. This is where patients are prepared for transplantations and given post-operative care. Wherever it works for patients, we target kidney transplantation as the procedure affording a higher quality of life.

02 HOW EVERYTHING BEGAN

The foundation of KfH



>> PIONEER IN DIALYSIS CARE



In the mid-1960s, the care situation for patients suffering from chronic kidney ailments in Germany was dramatic: Although in 1969 3,000 persons contracted kidney ailments every year, it was only possible to treat 500 people with an artificial kidney. The others – most of whom were young people – died because there was no place to treat them. The reason was a lack of medical care structures and no rules on the costs of treatment in spite of constant advancements in dialysis technology. This national crisis was the reason why the public service organisation KfH Kuratorium für Heimdialyse was founded on October 7, 1969.

FORERUNNER AND PACESETTER

Deeply affected by the fate of a close friend, Dr. Klaus Ketzler, the initiator of this organisation, dedicated himself to creating the medical, economic and legal framework for gradually building up blanket dialysis treatment. This organisation is supported primarily by physicians and it has become the forerunner and pacemaker of a high level of dialysis care quality in Germany.

In its incipient years, KfH put its greatest efforts into providing home dialysis as an alternative for patients with chronic ailments. Starting in 1973, they created their own out-patient dialysis centres in close co-operation with clinics to treat patients not eligible for home dialysis. Four years later (in 1977), KfH's first kidney centre was built for children and young people at the Essen University Clinic to meet the special treatment and care needs of these young patients suffering from chronic ailments.

PROMOTING KIDNEY TRANSPLANTATION

KfH not only had the medical and organisational challenge of establishing blanket life-saving dialysis treatment. From the onset, it made boosting the small number of kidney transplantations its top priority.

In 1976, KfH established the heretofore unknown organisational structure for kidney transplantations that was extended to the entire field of organ transplantations eight years later when the German Public Service Foundation for Organ Transplantation (DSO) was set up. Today, DSO undertakes activities throughout Germany as a co-ordinating office for organ donations.

03 40 YEARS OF KfH

Important milestones in KfH's development

1969

KfH is established to create the framework needed for gradually rolling out blanket dialysis treatment in Germany.

1973

KfH builds initial out-patient dialysis centres in close co-operation with clinics.

1977

KfH's first children's dialysis centre is built.

1982

KfH rolls out blanket procedures for non-contact lithotripsy in joint efforts with the leading organisations of the compulsory health insurance funds.

1984

The German Foundation for Organ Transplantation is established to extend the organisational structures set up for kidney transplantation by the KfH after 1976 to the entire field of organ transplantation.

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1984

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1989

KfH provides immediate aid in the most recent German federal states to give medical care to patients suffering from kidney ailments.

1990

1991

1992

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1994

1995

1996

1997

1998

1999

1999

KfH rolls out QiN (Quality in Nephrology), its medical quality assurance system.

2000

2001

KfH's Emergency Assistance Foundation for Persons with Kidney Diseases is established.

2001

2002

KfH's kidney centres are given long-term medical care assignments in the process of reorganizing medical care for patients suffering from kidney ailments. That not only includes medical treatment for dialysis patients, but also work for preventing terminal renal insufficiency and preparing patients for transplantation and post-operative care.

2002

2003

2004

2005

2005

KfH's Preventative Medicine Foundation is established to prevent kidney ailments

2006

2007

First medical care centres are created in Hannover and Aue, Germany that are sponsored by KfH to provide comprehensive medical care for patients suffering from kidney ailments.

2007

2008

2009

KfH celebrates its 40th anniversary on October 7, 2009.

2009

04

WHO WE ARE

From a pioneer to an innovator



>> ON TRACK FOR THE FUTURE WITH KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE

KfH's foremost mission was and is guaranteeing medical care for patients suffering from chronic kidney ailments. As a pioneer in dialysis care, KfH is iconic today for comprehensive medical care for patients suffering from kidney ailments – in other words, not limited to dialysis. Given our demographic development, our commitment will continue to be in focus. Preventing kidney ailments, delaying dialysis or avoiding it altogether, promoting kidney transplantation as an alternative to life-long dialysis and social and economic help for our patients – these are future challenges that KfH takes on as a public service organization mindful of its responsibility.

SEASONED AND QUALIFIED CO-WORKERS

Physicians, nursing staff and administrative employees are working in more than 200 KfH kidney centres, KfH health centres (medical care centres) and medical technology, logistics and administration for patients. One third of all dialysis patients in the Federal Republic of Germany are treated in the medically managed KfH organisations. KfH's physicians are specialists for internal medicine focusing on nephrology. And all of our 7,000 workers are specially qualified for their work and receive regular on-hands advanced training at KfH's own training centre.

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE BEST EXPERTS WE CAN GET

From the onset and even today, KfH is maintaining close co-operation between the out-patient and in-patient medical care such as KfH's kidney centres with the nephrological wards in clinics, nephrologists with their own practices and transplantation centres. That all has the purpose of guaranteeing interfaced, qualified and needs-oriented treatment for our patients. This is how KfH can give patients nephrological care in virtually every state in Germany, starting with prevention and dialysis right down to preparation for transplantation and post-operative care.

COMPREHENSIVE MEDICAL CARE AND EARLY PREVENTION

KfH not only takes on this special challenge in the kidney centres and together with nephrologists in private practices, but also uses new models for comprehensive medical care for patients who suffer from diseases that cause kidney ailments. Our medical care centres (KfH's health centres) not only provide nephrological care, but also treat diseases that are a risk for patients suffering from kidney ailments, such as high blood pressure or diabetes mellitus all at one place.

„PREVENTION IS WHAT WE'RE ALL ABOUT“

KfH's Preventative Medicine Foundation was established in 2005, dedicated to the idea of disease prevention. High on its agenda is the early identification and preventative treatment of diseases such as kidney and high-pressure ailments and diabetes mellitus that can become chronic and even make dialysis therapy necessary. The Foundation currently supports patient-orientated research into the area of chronic ailments. The research programmes particularly focus on how chronic kidney ailments can be slowed down or even stopped in the best-case scenario, making dialysis treatment superfluous.

MEDICAL TECHNOLOGY SERVICES

In 2001, its subsidiary GML (joint-stock company for medical technology and logistics management) emerged from the former technical department of KfH. Today, GML AG is a company active all over Germany offering its extensive medical technology services to other health care facilities and hospitals even beyond KfH.

MAXIMUM QUALITY STANDARDS

KfH has set itself maximum quality standards for its work: KfH rolled out its QiN (Quality in Nephrology) quality assurance system as early as 1999. QiN means that attending nephrologists always get the medical information and data they need to guarantee high quality treatment of patients for the long term.

At the same time, KfH came up with a quality management system which was first certified in 2004 and rolled out in stages throughout KfH.

05 WHAT IS ALSO IMPORTANT TO US

Treating children and young people suffering from chronic kidney ailments



>> OUR SPECIAL COMMITMENT



Comprehensive care for children and young people suffering from chronic kidney ailments has always been one of KfH's major objectives. Treating young patients calls for specialized facilities to deal with their particular needs. An important element going beyond medical care at the outset of kidney ailments is comprehensive psychosocial care. Furthermore, school tutoring, athletic training and motion therapy are a part of our treatment strategy. Most of the approximately 250 children and young people receiving dialysis treatment in Germany are cared for at one of KfH's 14 kidney centres for children and young people.

OUR FINALLY GROWN UP TRANSFER PROGRAMME

This programme is intended to help chronically ill young patients cope better with life and their particular problems in the phase of growing up.

We put young persons suffering from kidney ailments in contact with one another in workshops, seminars and over the internet. As well as helping them to deal with their illness, this enables them to talk about issues of special interest to young people, such as sexuality, living independently and the kind of job they would like to have.

PARTNERSHIP WITH THE EDERHOF REHABILITATION CENTRE

The Ederhof Rehabilitation Centre of the Rudolf Pichlmayr Foundation is located in the Austrian town of Stronach and it has developed a therapeutic strategy unique anywhere in Europe for rehabilitating children, young people and their families before and after organ transplantation. KfH participated in building up and financing this rehabilitation centre from the onset to give young patients access to dialysis.



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