



# Kidney Q&A

0-3 months

Life Options Rehabilitation Program

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[www.lifeoptions.org](http://www.lifeoptions.org)

## Q: Why are dialyzers re-used?

**A:** Re-use means you will use the same dialyzer more than once. This is a way that centers can save money while still giving good care. Re-use can benefit you, too. Some ways re-use can help you are:

- Less risk of your body reacting to chemicals used to make the dialyzer
- Less chance that the dialyzer will leak when you use it, because it is tested
- You may be able to use a larger or more efficient dialyzer

Studies show that re-use is safe when it's done right. After your treatment, a technician hooks up your dialyzer to a machine that tests it, rinses it, and fills it with cleaning fluid. Before you use it again, the cleaning fluid is rinsed out and the dialyzer is tested to be sure no cleaning fluid is left. The number of uses depends on your center's policy and whether the dialyzer passes its tests.

### What *I* can do to stay safe with re-use:

- Check the name on the label before treatment to be sure the dialyzer is mine.
- Ask the re-use technician to explain how re-use works.
- Ask my technician how I can tell if the cleaner was rinsed out of my dialyzer.

Tell my nurse right away if I feel any signs at a treatment that could be an allergy to a dialyzer or re-use chemical, like:

- Pain at my access site
- Trouble breathing or chest tightness
- Anxiety
- Feeling faint or weak
- Hives or itching
- Fever and shaking
- Burning, feeling hot
- Watery eyes or runny nose

Pay attention to how I feel when I am using a new dialyzer vs. a re-used one. Report any symptoms I have to my nurse.