



## 72nd Session of the Regional Committee of WHO for the Americas

### STATEMENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF NEPHROLOGY ON [ITEM 4.2 \(CD58/6\)](#)

*Statement delivered by  
Prof. Adeera Levin*

Honorable chair, distinguished delegates,

On behalf of the International Society of Nephrology (ISN), we wish to thank the regional committee and its Member States for the actions taken on COVID-19 in the Americas. The ISN urges the WHO Regional Committee and its Member States to recognize the impact of COVID-19 on patients with acute or permanent kidney failure, many of whom face interruption or unavailability of life-saving treatments such as dialysis and transplant.

Preliminary data show that about 20-30% of patients hospitalized with COVID-19 develop kidney failure, leading to a surge in requirement for dialysis in the short term and long term. The increased demand of limited resources severely compromises treatments of this acute, potentially reversible complication of COVID-19. Further, the breakdown of health systems and disruptions due to lockdowns have had a severe impact on the ability of patients with advanced kidney disease to access regular dialysis, and to receive life altering kidney transplants. Even a brief interruption in chronic dialysis treatment is a death sentence, as is lack of access to kidney transplants for some.

Hence, we call upon Member States of the PAHO to:

- Ensure a timely treatment of acute and chronic kidney disease including access to essential medications, dialysis equipment and supplies, and safe transplantation.
- Ensure availability of adequate personal protective equipment (PPE) to protect the healthcare workers by overseeing their purchase, distribution, supply, and responsible use, and ensure rapid scaling-up of SARS-CoV2 testing capabilities.
- Ensure that patients with NCDs, who by being affected by severe co-morbidities including diabetes, malignancies and respiratory, cardiovascular, liver, and kidney diseases commonly experience worse outcomes, are protected and treated from the consequences of COVID-19 disease.