

University of Michigan Health Increasing Organ Transplant Access (IOTA) Model

This kidney transplant hospital has been selected by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to participate in the Increasing Organ Transplant Access (IOTA) Model. The IOTA Model aims to increase access to life-saving transplants for patients living with end-stage renal disease (ESRD) and reduce Medicare expenditures.

? How does participation in the IOTA Model work?

- ▶ This model focuses on providing incentives to selected kidney transplant hospitals to increase transplantation and is designed to support greater care coordination, improved patient-centeredness in the process of being waitlisted for and receiving a kidney transplant, and greater access to kidney transplants.
- ▶ Through the IOTA Model payments and policies, CMS aims to increase the care delivery capabilities and efficiency of kidney transplant hospitals selected for participation, with the goal of improving quality of care while reducing unnecessary spending. The IOTA Model only affects payments in Original Medicare and does not affect payments or services for Medicare Advantage Plans, Medicare Prescription Drug Plans, or private health insurance plans.

? How does the IOTA Model affect me, the Medicare patient?

- ▶ **As a patient, the IOTA Model does not change your existing Medicare benefits, choices, or protections.** We cannot limit your choice of health care providers or Medicare-covered medically necessary services or treatment options. You still have the right to visit any doctor, hospital, or other provider that accepts Original Medicare at any time, just like you do now.

? What information will be shared about me?

- ▶ Medicare shares information about your care with your health care providers such as dates and times you visited a health care provider and your medical conditions. Sharing your data helps make sure all the providers involved in your care have access to your health information when and where they need it.
- ▶ **We value your privacy.** IOTA participants must put important safeguards in place to make sure all your health care information is safe. We respect your choice on how your health care information is used for care coordination and quality improvement
- ▶ If you **don't** want Medicare to share your health care data information, **call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227)**. Tell the representative that your health care provider is part of the IOTA Model, and you don't want Medicare to share your health care information. Beneficiaries who are deaf, hard of hearing, deaf-blind, or have speech disabilities should call 1-877-486-2048.

? How can I make the most of getting care from the IOTA Model?

- ▶ As a Medicare patient, you can choose or change your provider at any time. Your nephrologist is the health care provider responsible for coordinating your overall care for your kidney-related disease. Your nephrologist can help you make informed decisions about your health care, track your treatment, and monitor your health outcomes.

? What if I have concerns about being part of the IOTA Model?

- ▶ If you have questions or concerns about the quality of care or other services you receive from your provider, you can contact **1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227)**. TTY users can call 1-877-486-2048. You may also visit the website:



For more information on the Increasing Organ Transplant Access (IOTA) Model, visit:
<https://www.cms.gov/priorities/innovation/innovation-models/iota>

<https://www.Medicare.gov>.

- ▶ If you suspect *Medicare fraud or abuse from your IOTA provider* or any Medicare provider, we encourage you to make a report by contacting the HHS Office of Inspector General (1-800-HHS-TIPS).
- ▶ If you believe your *privacy rights have been violated*, you may file a privacy complaint with CMS (visit [Medicare.gov](https://www.Medicare.gov), or call 1-800-MEDICARE) or with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Office for Civil Rights (visit [hhs.gov/hipaa/filing-a-complaint](https://www.hhs.gov/hipaa/filing-a-complaint)). Filing a complaint won't affect your coverage under Medicare.

Original Content from IOTA participant:

Disclaimer: The statements contained below are solely those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). The authors assume responsibility for the accuracy and completeness of the information contained below in this document:

Frequently Asked Questions

Why did I receive this notification?

You are receiving this letter because you are currently listed for a kidney transplant or are being evaluated for one at the University of Michigan. University of Michigan Health is required by Medicare to notify all transplant patients that our hospital is participating in the IOTA program.

What does this mean for me?

- **Nothing changes about your listing status.**
- **Nothing changes about your care.** You will still see the same doctors, at the same places, at the same times.
- **Your costs and insurance benefits stay the same.**
- **You do not need to do anything new.**

Why is University of Michigan Health in this program?

Medicare requires certain transplant hospitals, including University of Michigan Health, to be part of the IOTA Model. The program's goal is to help more patients get kidney transplants, regardless of their insurance coverage.

Can I still choose my doctors?

Yes. You can keep your current doctors or see any provider who accepts your insurance.

What are the adult kidney patient selection considerations?

1. The acceptance of the patient for transplant is based on their clinical condition.
2. The patient or patient's guardian must have a clear understanding of the risks and benefits of the procedure and subsequent use of anti-rejection medications. In addition, they need to have reasonable expectations of the results of a successful transplant.
3. Adequate social and financial support is available to the patient.
4. It is recommended the patient has a primary care provider, but it is not required.

Who can I contact if I have more questions?

If you have additional questions about the IOTA program or this notification, please call us at **800-333-9013** or send us a portal message. Our transplant team will be happy to help.



For more information on the Increasing Organ Transplant Access (IOTA) Model, visit:
<https://www.cms.gov/priorities/innovation/innovation-models/iota>