

Iowa Methodist Kidney Transplant Center Increasing Organ Transplant Access (IOTA) Model

Methodist Kidney Transplant 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 to 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.



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: <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). Filing a complaint won't affect your coverage under Medicare.

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.

As a participant in the IOTA model, Iowa Methodist Transplant Center may request beneficiary-identifiable claims data for purposes of its care coordination, quality improvement work, and population-based activities relating to improving health or reducing health care costs.

Your health information is confidential, and Iowa Methodist has an ethical and legal obligation to protect your information. As stated above, 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. Keep in mind that you can opt out of Medicare sharing your health information with other healthcare providers, we cannot opt out of being included in the IOTA Project or sharing de-identified information – the project is a CMS mandate.

Attached you will find our list of selection criteria for being waitlisted at Iowa Methodist Kidney Transplant Center.

At Iowa Methodist Kidney Transplant Center, each potential candidate for transplant is assessed by the Transplant Listing Committee. The committee uses agreed upon criteria for acceptance as a transplant candidate. All individuals are treated equally, regardless of age, race, color, creed, or national origin.

Iowa Methodist Kidney Transplant Center (IAIM) Kidney Listing Criteria

Relative Contraindications:

- Advanced age combined with poor health status
- History of complicated medical history
- Lack of appropriate social support
- Inability to maintain professional relationships with transplant staff
- History of illicit drug use and substance abuse
- Advanced cardiopulmonary disease
- History of malignancy
- BMI > 40
- Tobacco use without evidence of cessation
- Psychosocial contraindications
- Inability to comply with transplant center's policies and procedures through transplant phases
- Pre-frail
- Current active autoimmune disease (e.g. Lupus, Goodpasture's Syndrome, Wegener's Granulomatosis)
- COVID-19 vaccination will be strongly recommended

Absolute Contraindications:

- Active infection
- Active malignancy
- Non-compliance with medical management
- Active substance abuse
- Irreversible pulmonary hypertension

We are honored to be managing your care for kidney health and post-transplant needs. Please reach out to us with any questions.

Nicole Patterson, RN, MSN, CCTC

IAIM Transplant Administrator
Unity Point Health – Des Moines