



The Comprehensive Immunosuppressive Drug Coverage for Kidney Transplant Recipients Act seeks to extend the Medicare Coverage longer than 36 months for anti-rejection medication that preserves a kidney transplant. It would benefit kidney transplant recipients who must take immunosuppressive drugs for the life of the transplant to prevent the body from rejecting the organ. Currently, Medicare pays for most kidney transplants but covers drugs for only 36 months after the transplant as part of the Medicare ESRD benefit. After that, kidney recipients must pay for immunosuppressive drugs through private insurance, public or pharmaceutical programs or pay out-of-pocket.

Medicare does cover drugs without a time limit if the patient qualifies because of age or disability status.

Immunosuppressive drugs are expensive, but the alternative is even more costly. Medicare spends \$17,300¹ per patient on anti-rejection medications to maintain a transplant, but if the kidney transplant fails, the person returns to dialysis at a cost of over \$68,600² per year to Medicare. And because dialysis is physically draining, quality of life often suffers too. This also includes the loss of an organ that can cost between \$100,000 and \$210,000³ to transplant. The gift of organ donation is too precious in these times of scarce medical resources not to provide for sustaining its viability.



S.565 & H.R.1458

Sen Durbin, Richard [IL] & Rep Camp, Dave [MI-4]

Title: A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide continued entitlement to coverage for immunosuppressive drugs furnished to beneficiaries under the Medicare Program that have received a kidney transplant and whose entitlement to coverage would otherwise expire, and for other purposes.

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