

Diabetes Mellitus and chronic kidney disease

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Introduction

- Chronic kidney disease (CKD), defined by persistent albuminuria, reduced estimated glomerular filtration rate (eGFR), or other markers of kidney damage, develops in 20–40% of individuals with diabetes and represents the leading cause of end-stage kidney disease (ESKD) in the United States.
- In type 1 diabetes, diabetic CKD typically manifests 5–15 years after diagnosis, whereas in type 2 diabetes it may already be present at the time of diagnosis.
- Progression to kidney failure necessitates dialysis or transplantation.
- Beyond kidney-specific outcomes, the presence of CKD in patients with type 1 or type 2 diabetes substantially amplifies cardiovascular risk and healthcare costs.

Screening and management of DM and its complications in patients with chronic kidney disease

- Chronic kidney disease prevention and management
- Glycemic management
- Lipid management
- Cardiovascular management
- Peripheral artery disease screening and management in CKD
- Bone management

Chronic kidney disease prevention and management



Assessment of Albuminuria and Estimated Glomerular Filtration Rate

- Accurate detection of diabetic kidney disease relies on proper assessment of albuminuria and estimated glomerular filtration rate (eGFR). Screening for albuminuria should be performed using the urine albumin-to-creatinine ratio (UACR) measured in a random spot urine sample, as this is more reliable and practical than timed collections or albumin measurement alone.
- Normal UACR is <30 mg/g, moderately increased 30–300 mg/g, and severely increased ≥300 mg/g; however, UACR is a continuous risk factor, and due to high biological variability (>20%), at least two of three samples collected over 3–6 months should be abnormal to confirm persistent albuminuria.
- Transient elevations may occur with exercise, infection, fever, heart failure, marked hyperglycemia, or hypertension.
- eGFR should be calculated using validated creatinine-based equations, preferably the 2021 race-free CKD-EPI creatinine equation (or better, the 2021 CKD-EPI creatinine—cystatin C combination equation) for greater accuracy across all populations.
- An eGFR persistently <60 mL/min/1.73 m² and/or UACR ≥30 mg/g confirms CKD. Laboratories now routinely report eGFR, and combined use of creatinine and cystatin C is increasingly recommended to improve diagnostic precision and guide clinical decisions in adults with diabetes.

Risk of CKD progression, cardiovascular disease risk, and mortality; frequency of visits; and referral to nephrology according to GFR and albuminuria.

The numbers in the boxes are a guide to the frequency of screening or monitoring (number of times per year). Green reflects no evidence of CKD by estimated GFR or albuminuria, with screening indicated once per year.

For monitoring of prevalent CKD, suggested monitoring varies from once per year (yellow) to four times or more per year (i.e., every 1–3 months [deep red]) according to risks of CKD progression and CKD complications (e.g., cardiovascular disease, anemia, and hyperparathyroidism).

These are general parameters based only on expert opinion and underlying comorbid conditions, and disease state must be taken into account, as should the likelihood of impacting a change in management for any individual. CKD, chronic kidney disease; GFR, glomerular filtration rate. Adapted from de Boer et al.

CKD is classified based on:

GFR (G)

categories (mL/min/1.73 m²) Description and range Albuminuria (A)

	Albuminuria (A)		<3 mg/mmol	3-29 mg/mmol	≥30 mg/mmol
G1	Normal or high	≥90	Screen 1	Treat 1	Treat and refer 2
G2	Mildly decreased	60-89	Screen 1	Treat 1	Treat and refer 2
G3a	Mildly to moderately decreased	45-59	Treat 1	Treat 2	Treat and refer 3
G3b	Moderately to severely decreased	30-44	Treat 2	Treat and refer 3	Treat and refer 3
G4	Severely decreased	15-29	Treat and refer 3	Treat and refer 3	Treat and refer 4+
G5	Kidney failure	<15	Treat and refer 4+	Treat and refer 4+	Treat and refer 4+

A1

Normal to mildly

increased

<30 ma/a

- Low risk (if no other markers of kidney disease, no CKD)Moderately increased risk
- High risk■ Very high risk

Albuminuria categories

Description and range

A2

Moderately

increased

30-299 ma/a

A3

Severely

increased

≥300 ma/a



Table 11.1—Reasons to consider nondiabetic kidney diseases in a person with chronic kidney disease and diabetes

- Type 1 diabetes duration <5 years
- Active urine sediment (e.g., containing red blood cells or cellular casts)
- Chronically well-managed blood glucose
- Rapidly declining eGFR
- Rapidly increasing or very high UACR or urine protein/creatinine level
- No retinopathy in a person with type 1 diabetes

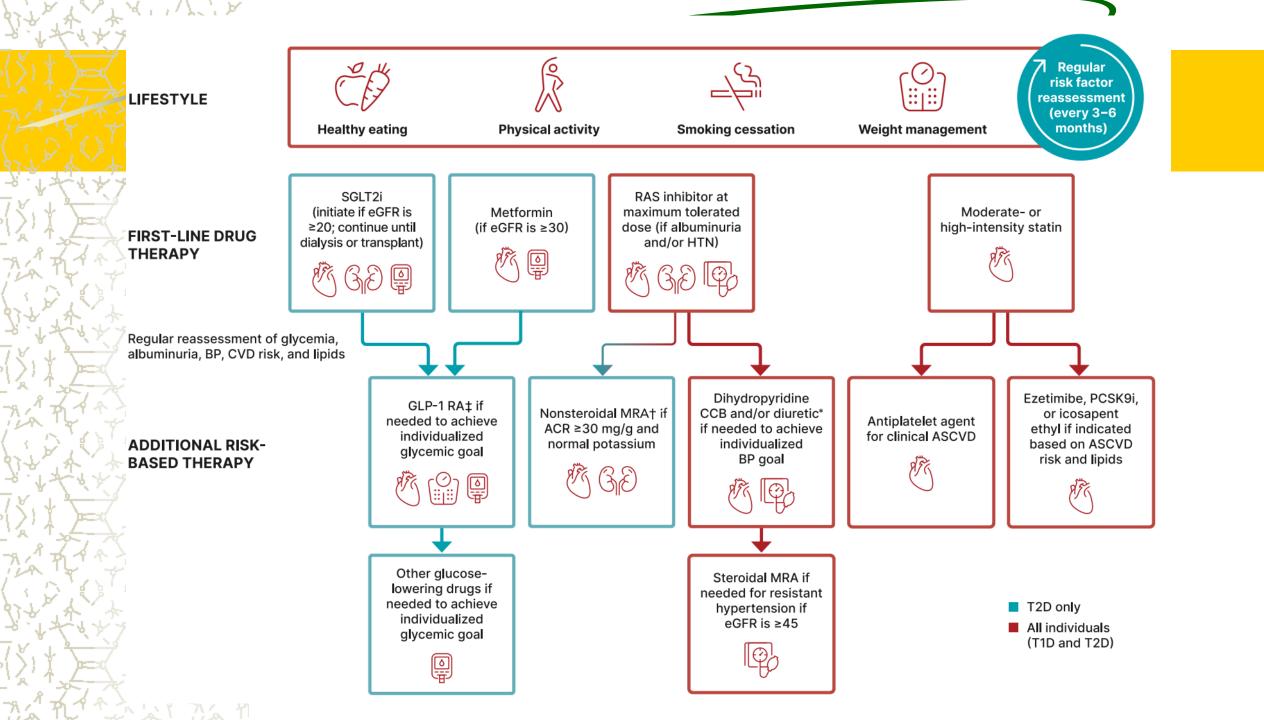
Information adapted from Liang et al. (129). eGFR, estimated glomerular filtration rate; UACR, urine albumin-to-creatinine ratio.



Table 11.3—Interventions that lower albuminuria

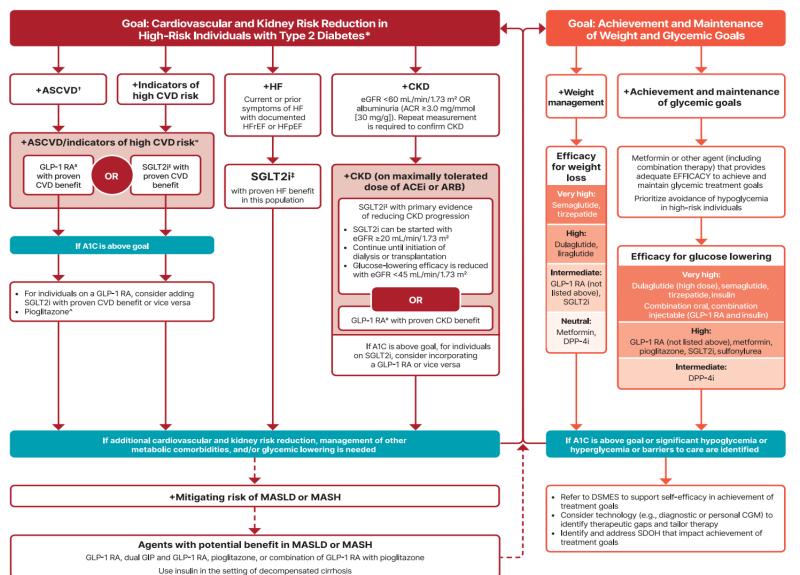
- Blood glucose management
- Blood pressure management
- Treatment with ACE inhibitors or ARBs
- Smoking cessation
- Weight loss
- Changes in eating patterns (decreased salt intake and/or protein intake)
- Treatment with SGLT2 inhibitors, MRAs, or GLP-1 RAs

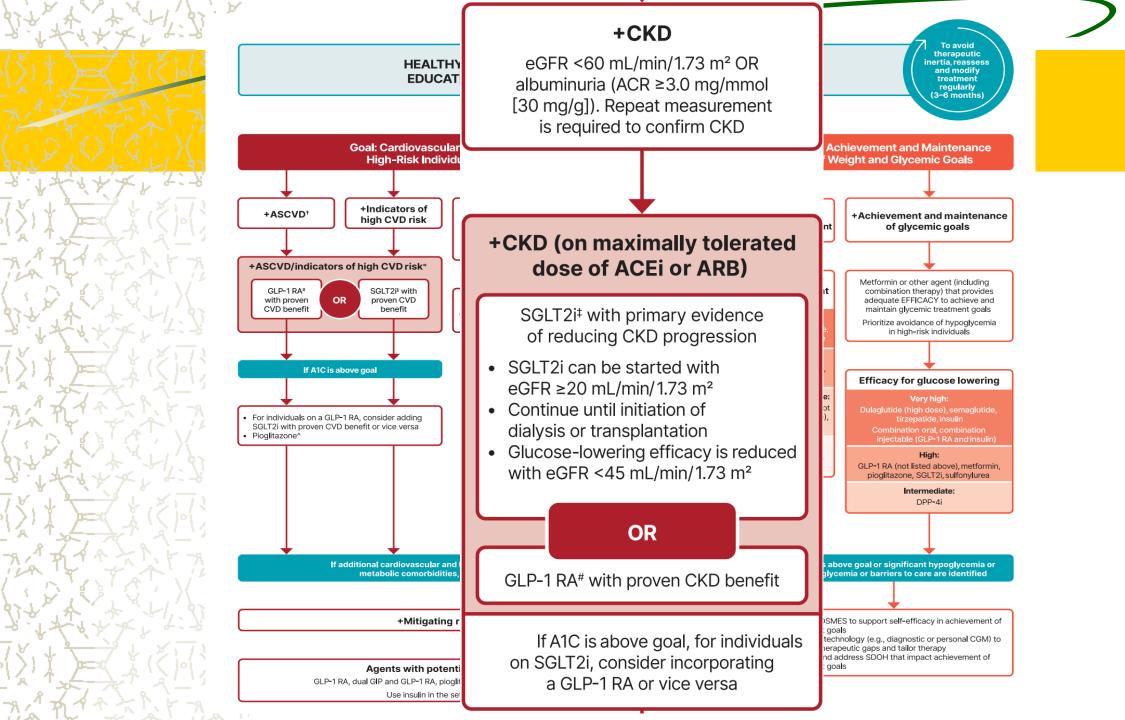
ARB, angiotensin receptor blocker; GLP-1 RA, glucagon-like peptide 1 receptor agonist; MRA, mineralocorticoid receptor antagonist.



HEALTHY LIFESTYLE BEHAVIORS; DIABETES SELF-MANAGEMENT EDUCATION AND SUPPORT; SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH ardiovascular and Kidney Risk Reduction in Risk Individuals with Type 2 Diabetes*

To avoid
therapeutic
inertia, reassess
and modify
treatment
regularly
(3–6 months)





Glycemic management



Glycemic goals and hypoglycemia

- Glycemic target: Slightly more relaxed than in general population
 - A1c 7.0-8.0% (KDIGO 2022, ADA 2024)
 - Avoid tight control (<7%) \rightarrow high risk of severe hypoglycemia (especially on dialysis)
 - Individualize: avoid <6.5–7% in frail/elderly patients</p>
- Hypoglycemia risk is dramatically increased due to:
 - Reduced insulin clearance (↓ renal degradation)
 - Decreased gluconeogenesis in kidney
 - Malnutrition, variable appetite on dialysis days Erythropoietin use, spontaneous resolution of uremic anorexia
- Hemodialysis patients
 - Insulin requirements often decrease on dialysis days (glucose-free dialysate removes glucose)
 - Higher needs on non-dialysis days
 - Frequent SMBG (self-monitoring of blood glucose) or CGM highly recommended



Glycemic goals and hypoglycemia

Peritoneal dialysis patients

- Glucose load from icodextrin/dialysate
- → higher insulin requirements, risk of weight gain and hyperglycemia

Kidney transplant recipients

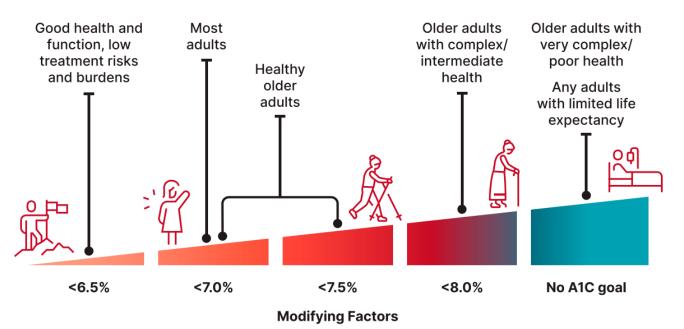
- → High-dose steroids → marked insulin resistance early post-transplant
- Often need very high insulin doses initially, then taper

Monitoring Recommendations

- A1c limitations in advanced CKD (shorter RBC lifespan, ESA use, acidosis) → consider glycated albumin or fructosamine in dialysis patients
- CGM (continuous glucose monitoring) or flash GM increasingly used → better detection of asymptomatic hypoglycemia



Glycemic goals and hypoglycemia

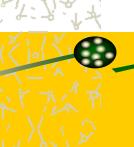


Favor more stringent goal	Favor less stringent goal		
Short diabetes duration	Long diabetes duration		
Low hypoglycemia risk	High hypoglycemia risk		
Low treatment risks and burdens	High treatment risks and burdens		
Pharmacotherapy with cardiovascular, kidney, weight, or other benefits	Pharmacotherapy without nonglycemic benefits		
No cardiovascular complications	Established cardiovascular complications		
Few or minor comorbidities	Severe, life-limiting comorbidities		



Anti hyperglycemic medications

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Medication	Glucose-			CV e	effects		Kidney effects		
(route of administration)	lowering	Hypoglycemia risk		Effect on MACE	Effect on HF	Progression of CKD	Dosing/use considerations*	MASH effects	Clinical considerations and adverse effects
Metformin (oral)	High	No	Neutral (potential for modest loss)	Potential benefit	Neutral	Neutral	Contraindicated with eGFR <30 mL/min/ 1.73 m ²	Neutral	 GI side effects: mitigate with slow dose titration, extended-release formulations, and administration with food. Potential for vitamin B12 deficiency: monitor and replete as appropriate.
SGLT2 inhibitors (oral)	Intermediate to high	No	Loss (intermediate)	Benefit: canagliflozin, empagliflozin	Benefit: canagliflozin, dapagliflozin, empagliflozin, ertugliflozin	Benefit: canagliflozin, dapagliflozin, empagliflozin	 See labels of individual agents for dosage considerations for kidney function Glucose-lowering effect is minimal at eGFR <45 mL/min/1.73 m² and lower; continue for cardiovascular and kidney benefit until dialysis or transplantation 	Unknown	 DKA risk in individuals with insulin deficiency (rare in T2D): discontinue, evaluate, and treat promptly if suspected; be aware of predisposing risk factors and clinical presentations (including euglycemic DKA); mitigate risk with sick-day planning; discontinue before scheduled surgery (e.g., 3-4 days), during critical illness, or during prolonged fasting. Genital mycotic infections: mitigate risk with genital hygiene and avoid use in high-risk individuals. Necrotizing fasciitis of the perineum (Fournier gangrene): rare; prompt treatment if suspected. Intravascular volume depletion: attention to volume status and blood pressure, particularly when ill or fasting; adjust other volume-contracting agents as applicable; monitor kidney function upon initiation.



Anti hyperglycemic medications

Medication	Glucose-			CV et	ffects		Kidney effects		
•	lowering efficacy ¹	Hypoglycemia risk	Weight effects ²	Effect on MACE	Effect on HF	Progression of CKD	Dosing/use considerations*	MASH effects	Clinical considerations and adverse effects
GLP-1 RAs (SQ; semaglutide also available in oral formulation)	High to very high	No	Loss		Neutral	Benefit for renal end points in CVOTs, driven by albuminuria outcomes: dulaglutide, liraglutide, semaglutide (SQ)	See labels of individual	Potential benefit	 Thyroid C-cell tumors identified in rodents; human relevance not determined. Ileus: risk level is not well established; provide guidance on discontinuation prior to surgical procedures. Pancreatitis: acute pancreatitis has been reported, but causality has not been established. Do not initiate if at high risk for pancreatitis, and discontinue if pancreatitis is suspected. Biliary disease: evaluate for gallbladder disease if cholelithiasis or cholecystitis is suspected; avoid use in at-risk individuals. Diabetic retinopathy: close monitoring of retinopathy in those at high risk (older individuals and those with longer duration of T2D [≥10 years]). Impact on drug absorption: orally administered drug absorption may be impaired during dose titration (including of oral contraceptives). GI side effects: counsel on potential for GI side effects; provide guidance on dietary modifications to mitigate GI side effects (reduction in meal size, mindful eating practices [e.g. stop eating once full], decreasing intake of high-fat or spicy food); consider slower dose titration for those experiencing GI challenges. Not recommended for individuals with gastroparesis.
-				Neutral: exenatide once weekly, lixisenatide		Demonstrated benefit for progression of CKD for semaglutide (SQ)	escalating doses in individuals with kidney impairment reporting severe adverse GI reactions		
Dual GIP and GLP-1 RA (SQ)	Very high	No	Loss (very high)	Under investigation	Under investigation	Under investigation	 See labels of individual agents for dosage considerations for kidney function No dose adjustment Monitor kidney function when initiating or escalating doses in individuals with kidney impairment reporting severe adverse Gl reactions 	Potential benefit	



Anti hyperglycemic medications

Medication	Glucose-			CV et	fects	k	Cidney effects		
(route of administration)	lowering efficacy ¹	Hypoglycemia risk	Weight effects ²	Effect on MACE	Effect on HF	Progression of CKD	Dosing/use considerations*	MASH effects	Clinical considerations and adverse effects
DPP-4 inhibitors (oral)	Intermediate	No	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral (potential risk: saxagliptin)	Neutral	 Dose adjustment required based on kidney function (sitagliptin, saxagliptin, alogliptin) No dose adjustment required for linagliptin 	Unknown	 Pancreatitis has been reported, but causality has not been established. Discontinue if pancreatitis is suspected. Postmarketing concerns about joint pain (consider discontinuing if debilitating and other treatment options are feasible) and bullous pemphigoid (discontinue if suspected).
Pioglitazone - (oral)	High	No	Gain	Potential benefit	Increased risk	Neutral	 No dose adjustment required Generally not recommended in kidney impairment due to potential for fluid retention 	Potential benefit	 Increased risk of HF and fluid retention. Do not use in the setting of HF. Risk of bone fractures. Bladder cancer: do not use in individuals with active bladder cancer, and use caution in those with prior history of bladder cancer.
Sulfonylureas (2nd generation) (oral)	High	Yes	Gain	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral	 Glyburide: generally not recommended in CKD Glipizide and glimepiride: initiate conservatively to avoid hypoglycemia 	Unknown	 FDA Special Warning on increased risk of CV mortality based on studies of an older sulfonylurea (tolbutamide); glimepiride shown to be CV safe (see text). Use with caution in individuals at risk for hypoglycemia, particularly if in combination with insulin.
Insulin (human) (SQ; regular insulin also available as inhaled formulation) Insulin (analogs) (SQ)	High to very high	Yes	Gain	Neutral	Neutral	Neutral	Lower insulin doses required with a decrease in eGFR; titrate per clinical response	Unknown	 Injection site reactions Higher risk of hypoglycemia with human insulin (NPH or premixed formulations) vs. analogs Risk of hypoglycemia and duration of activity increases with the severity of impaired kidney function. Refer to device-specific instructions for insulins compatible with different delivery systems (i.e., pumps, connected insulin pens, insulin patches).

Lipid management

Lipid Management in Patients with Diabetes and Chronic Kidney Disease

- Lipid abnormalities in diabetic kidney disease (DKD) are characterized by hypertriglyceridemia, low high-density lipoprotein cholesterol (HDL-C), and variable low-density lipoprotein cholesterol (LDL-C) levels, driven by insulin resistance, nephrotic-range proteinuria, and uremic dyslipidemia.
- These contribute to accelerated atherosclerosis and progression to end-stage kidney disease (ESKD).
- In advanced CKD (stages 4–5, eGFR <30 mL/min/1.73 m², including dialysis), the cardiovascular (CV) risk is markedly elevated (10-year event rate >30%), necessitating aggressive, guideline-directed therapy.

Lipid Management in Patients with Diabetes and Chronic Kidney Disease

- Risk Stratification: All patients with diabetes and CKD (especially eGFR <60 mL/min/1.73 m²) are high-risk for atherosclerotic CV disease (ASCVD); treat as secondary prevention equivalents.
- Targets (no strict LDL-C thresholds per KDIGO/ADA; focus on relative risk reduction):
- LDL-C: Aim for ≥50% reduction from baseline; <70 mg/dL (or <55 mg/dL in very high-risk).</p>
- Non-HDL-C: <100 mg/dL (or <85 mg/dL in very high-risk).</p>
- Triglycerides (TG): <150 mg/dL via lifestyle; pharmacotherapy if 150–499 mg/dL on statin.
- Lifestyle Foundation: Mediterranean or DASH diet, weight loss (5–10% if obese), <7% saturated fat, increased n-3 fatty acids, viscous fiber (oats, legumes), and plant stanols/sterols; ≥150 min/week aerobic exercise. Optimize glycemia to reduce TG/HDL-C discordance.



Anti hyperlipidemic medications

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7	Agent/Class	Recommendation in Advanced CKD	Dosing/Adjustments	Key Evidence/Notes
Z		(eGFR <30 or Dialysis) + Diabetes		
,	Statins (atorvastatin,	High-intensity for all ≥50 years or ASCVD	Atorvastatin 40–80 mg; rosuvastatin	KDIGO 2024: 20-30% MACE
ł	rosuvastatin preferred)	(Class 1, Level A). Continue if already on;	≤10 mg. No adjustment for	reduction; safe in dialysis. AACE
į	resurasia in presenta,	initiate if not.	atorvastatin; limit simvastatin ≤20	2025: Use for primary/secondary
T			mg, pravastatin ≤40 mg.	prevention. Myopathy risk 个 but
7			G	manageable with monitoring.
Z				
ζ.	Ezetimibe	Add to statin in all (even if LDL-C <100	10 mg daily; no adjustment.	IMPROVE-IT/REACT subgroups: 个
¥		mg/dL).		benefit in CKD; no renal excretion.
J				ABCD-UKKA 2024: Improves DKD
T				outcomes.
7	PCSK9 Inhibitors	Add if LDL-C ≥70 mg/dL (or ≥55 mg/dL	Standard dosing; no adjustment	FOURIER/ODYSSEY CKD subgroups:
2	(evolocumab, alirocumab)	very high-risk) despite max statin +	(eGFR ≥15).	20–25% further MACE reduction;
ζ.		ezetimibe.	,	anti-inflammatory effects in DKD.
3	or Inclisiran			AACE 2025: Preferred non-statin.
¥				
Ċ	Bempedoic Acid	Alternative if statin-intolerant.	180 mg daily; no adjustment.	CLEAR Outcomes: CV benefits in
7				CKD; uricosuric effect may benefit
20-				hyperuricemia in DKD.
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Management of Hypertriglyceridemia (TG 150-499 mg/dL)

- First: Optimize statin ± ezetimibe and lifestyle.
- If persistent: Add fibrate or icosapent ethyl (EPA); avoid niacin (worsens glycemia).
- Fibrates (Fenofibrate, Gemfibrozil, Pemafibrate)
- Fibrates activate PPAR-α, reducing TG (20–50%), raising HDL-C (5–15%), and modestly lowering LDL-C.
- Beneficial in early DKD (reduce albuminuria, slow eGFR decline via antiinflammatory/fibrotic effects), but use cautiously in advanced CKD due to reversible creatinine rise (5–10%, not true GFR drop) and rhabdomyolysis risk with statins.



Management of Hypertriglyceridemia (TG 150-499 mg/dL)

- Contraindications: eGFR <15 (except pemafibrate), active liver disease, gallbladder disease.</p>
- Monitoring: LFTs, CK, creatinine at baseline/1–3 months; hold if TG <200 mg/dL post-therapy.
- Icosapent Ethyl (Pure EPA, 4 g/day)
- Highly purified EPA ethyl ester; reduces TG (18–25%) without raising LDL-C. Pleiotropic effects: anti-inflammatory, plaque stabilization, membrane incorporation. No renal adjustment; safe/effective across eGFR spectrum.
- Recommendation: Add to statin if TG 135–499 mg/dL + ASCVD/diabetes + ≥1 risk factor (Class 1, ADA/AACE 2025).
 Benefits persist in advanced CKD.
- Evidence in Advanced CKD:
- REDUCE-IT (n=8179; 23% eGFR <60): Consistent 25% relative MACE reduction (HR 0.75 overall; HR 0.71 in eGFR <60); largest absolute risk reduction (21.8% vs. 28.9% events).

 CV death (HR 0.70 in low eGFR). No eGFR change; benefits after 18 months.
- Subgroups: ↑ EPA levels correlate with outcomes; no interaction by eGFR (P=0.92 for bleeding/AF). ASN 2020: Significant CV reduction in compromised renal function.
- 🏂 √Safety: ↑ bleeding/AF (HR 1.4 in low eGFR, but similar across categories); use PPI if GI risk. No pancreatitis signal.



Management of Hypertriglyceridemia (TG 150-499 mg/dL)

_	No 1 /			
)==	Fibrate	Use in Advanced CKD + Diabetes	Dosing/Adjustments	Evidence/Safety
4	Fenofibrate	Consider if TG >200 mg/dL and no	≤48 mg micronized daily if	ACCORD/FIELD: ↓
۲).		statin (or low-dose). Avoid	eGFR 15-29; avoid if <15 or	micro/macroalbuminuria (HR 0.56-0.72),
, ¹ ,		gemfibrozil (个 statin myopathy).	dialysis.	slower eGFR decline (-0.28 vs1.25
9 A .				mL/min/year); no 个 CKD/ESKD.
)==				Systematic review: CV event prevention,
1				albuminuria reduction. Caution: 个
۲)				creatinine reversible; monitor q3
人				months.
۴,	Pemafibrate	Preferred in advanced CKD; safer	0.2–0.4 mg BID; no	PROMINENT (2022): No overall CV
)==		renal profile.	adjustment (minimal renal	benefit, but CKD subgroup: ↓ MACE (OR
2			excretion).	0.73–0.84), especially current/recent
۲,				use. Real-world: 个 eGFR vs.
				conventional fibrates; ↓ CV events in
- A.				CKD3 hyperTG (no other lipids). ABCD-
)==				UKKA 2024: May delay dialysis.
4				
	TENDER DISCOURT			



Special Considerations in Dialysis/Transplant

- Dialysis: Statin + ezetimibe; EPA if eligible (TG criteria).
 - Avoid fibrates unless TG >500 mg/dL (rhabdomyolysis risk with heparin).
- Transplant: Same as non-transplant;
 - monitor interactions with immunosuppressants (e.g., cyclosporine ↑ statin levels).
- Monitoring: Annual lipid panel;
 - more frequent if TG >500 mg/dL or recent changes.
 - Track trending UACR/eGFR for DKD progression.

Thank you and hope for a good rain

