Who do I talk to if I want to try a different treatment for ESRD?

When you learned you had kidney failure and needed to choose a treatment, you may not have known all of your options; or you may find that the treatment you chose doesn’t let you stay active and productive, and you want to try something else. In most cases, you can change treatments.

Treatments you may be able to do for kidney failure include:

- Hemodialysis: in a center or at home
- Peritoneal dialysis: manually or using a cycler machine
- Kidney transplant: from a living donor who is related or not related, or from a deceased donor

What I can do if I want to change treatment options:

- Ask my doctor and care team about resources and classes
- Ask my doctor if my health or other factors prevent me from doing any treatment
- Find out what my insurance covers for dialysis doctors and services
- Make a list of the pros and cons of each treatment for me
- Don’t let anyone underestimate my ability to do what I want to do
- Look for facilities that provide the kind of treatment I want; visit www.medicare.gov/dialysisfacilitycompare/search.html to find clinics
- Visit module 2 of Kidney School™: Treatment Options for Kidney Disease at www.kidneyschool.org to learn about dialysis treatments and transplant
- Visit Home Dialysis Central at www.homedialysis.org to learn more about home treatment options

Used with permission from Life Options Rehabilitation Program: www.lifeoptions.org

To file a grievance about the care you are receiving at your dialysis facility contact Network 7 at 800.826.3773.