



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**GROWTH OF CHRONIC KIDNEY DISEASE HIGHLIGHTS NEED FOR EARLY
DETECTION, GREATER KNOWLEDGE OF TREATMENT OPTIONS**

***Baxter Encourages Canadians with Diabetes to Talk to Their Doctor
about Kidney Disease and Treatment Options on World Kidney Day***

MISSISSAUGA, ON, March 8, 2010: As the incidence of diabetes continues to grow – and increasing numbers of patients progressing to kidney disease and kidney failure require healthcare resources – the need for early patient education about kidney disease and treatment options, including home-based treatments, has become critical. Baxter Corporation is urging Canadians with diabetes to learn about the symptoms and treatment options for chronic kidney disease (CKD) on **World Kidney Day, March 11**.

The incidence of CKD is growing, fuelled largely by diseases associated with an aging population, hypertension and increasing rates of diabetes. World Kidney Day is a global health campaign of The International Society of Nephrology (ISN) and the International Federation of Kidney Foundation (IFKF) that raises awareness about the importance of our kidneys and reducing the frequency and impact of kidney disease and its associated health problems.

More than 240 million people worldwide have diabetes, including more than three million Canadians¹, and this global figure is projected to rise to 380 million by 2025. About 40 percent of people with diabetes will develop chronic kidney disease, which also increases the risk of cardiovascular or other complications². Today, it is estimated that approximately two million Canadians have kidney disease or are at risk³.

“People with diabetes or hypertension, over the age of 60 or with a family history of kidney disease are at higher risk of progressing to chronic kidney disease. These patients should undergo screening and talk to their doctor about this disease regardless

¹Canadian Diabetes Association, http://www.diabetes.ca/files/Diabetes_Fact_Sheet.pdf

²The International Society of Nephrology and the International Federation of Kidney Foundations, World Kidney Day: Prevalence of Disease, <http://www.worldkidneyday.org/page/prevalence-of-disease>

³ Kidney Foundation of Canada, *Kidney Disease: Quick Facts and Stats*, <http://www.kidney.ca/Document.Doc?id=620>

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of if they display symptoms,” says Dr. Jeffrey Perl, M.D., F.R.C.P.(C), nephrologist with St. Michael’s Hospital (Toronto, Ontario). “Early detection of chronic kidney disease can dramatically affect how long you can preserve kidney function, what treatment options you have and the quality of life you will experience while living with the disease.”

According to two recent studies, chronic kidney disease patients who received early guidance from their nephrologist about their condition and dialysis treatment had a significantly lower risk of death within the first year of treatment^{4,5}. Studies have also demonstrated that people living with kidney disease who are informed about treatment options and are given a choice more often choose a home therapy.

Several studies report that patients on peritoneal dialysis, the most common type of home dialysis, are more satisfied with their care and experience a reduced impact of kidney disease on their lives compared to patients receiving in-center hemodialysis^{6,7}. In addition, home dialysis is cost-effective, associated with continued employment⁸ and can offer more flexibility and time for family and social activities. Recent studies also indicate that more than 75 percent of dialysis patients are eligible to choose either a home or center dialysis modality^{9,10}.

Recently, the Government of Ontario announced as part of its progress update on the Ontario Diabetes Strategy, the expansion of dialysis services in hospitals, community-based facilities, long-term care homes, complex continuing care and home-based dialysis care. This includes funding to support 5,000 additional clinic visits for care and prevention of chronic kidney condition, dialysis treatment for nearly 500 additional patients and home dialysis for an additional 310 patients¹¹.

“It is important for people with diabetes to learn as much as possible about the progression of kidney failure to prevent complications from chronic kidney disease,” says Dr. Perl. “If kidney replacement treatment is necessary, patients should learn

⁴ Bradbury B., et.al., “Predictors of Early Mortality among Incident US Hemodialysis Patients in the Dialysis Outcomes and Practice Patterns Study (DOPPS),” *Clinical Journal of the American Society of Nephrology*, no. 2 (2007), 89-99.

⁵ Hasegawa T., et. al., “Greater First-Year Survival on Hemodialysis in Facilities in Which Patients Are Provided Earlier and More Frequent Pre-nephrology Visits,” *Clinical Journal of the American Society of Nephrology*, no. 4 (2009), 595-602.

⁶ Carmichael P, et. al. “Assessment of quality of life in a single centre dialysis population using the KDQOL-SF questionnaire.” *Qual Life Res*, (2000), 9:195-205.

⁷ Kutner NG, et. al. “Health status and quality of life reported by incident patients after 1 year on haemodialysis or peritoneal dialysis.” *Nephrol Dial Transplant*, (2005), 20:2159-2167.

⁸ Paul M. Just, et.al., “Reimbursement and economic factors influencing dialysis modality choice around the world,” *Nephrology, Dialysis, and Transplantation*, January 30, 2008, no. 23, 2365-2373.

⁹ Mendelssohn D., et. al., “A Prospective Evaluation of Renal Replacement Therapy Modality Eligibility,” *Nephrology Dialysis Transplantation*, (2009) 24: 555-561.

¹⁰ Little J., et. al. “Predicting a Patient’s Choice of Dialysis Modality: Experience in a United Kingdom Renal Department. *American Journal of Kidney Disease*, 2001; 37: 981–986

¹¹ Government of Ontario, Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, Press Release, *Ontario Standing Up To Diabetes*, November 12, 2009

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about all of their treatment options and select the one that is best suited to their condition and lifestyle.”

The human kidney works to remove wastes and fluids from the body. As kidney disease progresses, the kidneys work less and less effectively. If detected early, lifestyle changes and selected medications can preserve kidney function for a longer period of time. If the disease progresses, in order to survive, people living with kidney disease must depend on renal replacement therapies to make up for lost kidney function, usually in the form of dialysis or transplantation. People may receive dialysis treatment at home (peritoneal or home hemodialysis), or in a dialysis center or hospital (in-center hemodialysis).

For more information on kidney disease screening and treatment options, visit www.renalinfo.com.

About Baxter Renal Therapies

Baxter’s renal business provides products to treat end-stage renal disease, or irreversible kidney failure. It is a leading manufacturer of products for peritoneal dialysis (PD), a home therapy Baxter introduced 30 years ago. Products include PD solutions automated cyclers and clinical software. The business also distributes products for hemodialysis (HD), a therapy that generally takes place in a hospital or clinic.

About Baxter

As a subsidiary of Baxter International Inc. (NYSE:BAX), Baxter Corporation (Canada) manufactures and markets products that save and sustain the lives of people living with hemophilia, immune disorders, infectious diseases, kidney disease, trauma, and other chronic and acute medical conditions. As a global, diversified healthcare company, Baxter applies a unique combination of expertise in medical devices, pharmaceuticals and biotechnology to create products that advance patient care worldwide. More information: www.baxter.ca.

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