

# Nephrologist

The kidney doctor. Dialysis, transplants and blood pressure, five years of residency after medical school, and patients you follow for decades.

## TYPICAL PAY

**\$400,000**

a year, full time

## PAY RANGE

**\$280k to \$550k**

starting to experienced

## TIME TO QUALIFY

**11 to 13 years**

after high school

## DEMAND

**Very high**

job outlook

## LICENCE NEEDED

**Yes**

regulated job

## WHERE YOU WORK

**Hospitals, dialysis units, kidney clinics, transplant centres**

## How you get there

- 1 High school** Grades 11 and 12  
Top marks in biology, chemistry, math and English. You need a very high average for a science undergrad.
- 2 Bachelor's degree** 3 to 4 years  
Any major works. Keep a GPA (grade point average) above 3.8, volunteer, do research. Write the MCAT (medical school admission test).
- 3 Medical school, the MD (doctor of medicine)** 3 to 4 years  
Acceptance rates are 5% to 15%. Classes, then clinical rotations.
- 4 Internal medicine residency** 3 years  
Matched through CaRMS (the residency matching service). Hospital wards, the ICU (intensive care unit) and clinics. In year 3 you apply to the subspecialty match.
- 5 Nephrology residency, then certification** 2 years  
Dialysis units, transplant clinics, kidney biopsies, and consults for the sickest patients in the hospital. Pass the Royal College exams to become FRCPC (Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians of Canada) and register with your provincial College of Physicians and Surgeons.

## Pros and cons

- + Steady, predictable income from dialysis
- + Patients you know for decades, not minutes
- + Transplants are one of the great success stories in medicine
- Thirteen years of training
- Dialysis units run on holidays and weekends, and so do you
- Many patients are very sick and getting sicker

## Good to know

### More than 30,000 Canadians on dialysis

CIHI (Canadian Institute for Health Information) counted more than 50,000 Canadians living with end-stage kidney disease in 2024. About 30,000 of them were on dialysis and about 20,000 were living...

### 1 in 10 have kidney disease

The Kidney Foundation of Canada says 1 in 10 Canadians has chronic kidney disease, and most do not know it. Kidneys can lose most of their function before you feel anything, which is why nephrologists re...

## Optional boosts

Transplant nephrology. Home dialysis. Critical care nephrology. Glomerular disease.

### Where these numbers come from

Job Bank: Nephrologist, wages (updated Nov 2025)  
Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada  
CIHI: Organ replacement in Canada, CORR annual statistics  
Canadian Society of Nephrology

Numbers checked September 2026. Pay figures are typical full-time annual amounts in Canadian dollars, based on Government of Canada Job Bank wage data and published salary grids. They vary by province, employer and experience. Tuition is for domestic students. Sources, links and the click-through version: <https://career.help/ca/careers/nephrologist>



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