

Health Equity Starts Here: Community CKD Screening Starts Here

Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) is a serious long-term condition that often develops silently. Many people do not know they have CKD until it reaches an advanced stage, when treatment options are limited and the risk of other health problems—such as heart disease—rises sharply. Early diagnosis can make a major difference, but many people, especially those from minority ethnic and disadvantaged backgrounds, are not routinely tested until it is too late. This project will pilot a new approach in Greater Manchester, an area known for its rich ethnic diversity and health inequalities. The study will add a simple kidney function test—measuring estimated glomerular filtration rate (eGFR)—to existing community health checks that already screen for conditions like diabetes and high blood pressure. These health checks are delivered through local outreach programmes that take place in familiar community venues such as places of worship, leisure centres, and local events. By bringing CKD testing directly into the community, the project aims to make early detection more accessible and equitable. People found to have early signs of kidney problems will be referred to their GP for further care. Alongside testing, the programme will also raise awareness about kidney health, helping people understand risk factors and the importance of prevention. The study will look at how many new cases of CKD are identified, how well the testing process works in community settings, and how people feel about taking part. The findings will show whether this approach could be rolled out more widely across the NHS. If successful, the project could lead to earlier diagnosis, better long-term health, and reduced inequalities— helping more people live healthier lives while reducing pressure on hospital services. The project will generate information on new models of care which enhance the reach of healthcare to all, in a timely manner.