



December 18, 2007

Dear CKiD Participants and Families,

On behalf of the National Institutes of Health, and the project coordinators, doctors and nurses involved in the CKiD study, we want to thank you for your continued participation in the study. The CKiD study has received national and international attention. Your participation has helped us reach our goal of enrolling more than 500 participants in the study. We are very confident that meeting this goal will help us answer important questions to improve the health of children with chronic kidney disease.

We are very pleased to tell you that the CKiD study and your participation has made it possible for us to develop a test that can be used to precisely measure kidney function. The test is the iohexol GFR. Because of this test, we are able to determine accurately how kidney function changes over time. Also, the test will help us find factors responsible for causing kidneys to fail faster than normal. In turn, we hope to find treatments that might keep kidney function stable. This is still a research test that most of you have received as part of CKiD and does not take the place of how your doctor usually decides how well your kidneys are working.

We have also collected a detailed description of the types of kidney disease that all the children enrolled in CKiD have and the kinds of care they receive. We are exploring how these factors might have a role in keeping a child's kidney function stable.

With the information that has been collected for the study, we are trying to: 1) determine the level of kidney function at which anemia (low red blood cell level) might begin to develop, 2) determine what factors might be responsible for an early decrease in kidney function, 3) evaluate how chronic illness due to kidney disease affects quality of life and school functioning and; 4) determine the extent that chronic kidney disease affects the risk of heart disease and affects attention and memory.

We are currently applying to the National Institutes of Health to renew this study so that we have the chance to follow all of the children enrolled in CKiD once a year for another 5 years. In this manner, we hope to learn more about how doctors might be able to better take care of patients with kidney damage throughout childhood. Your ongoing participation in the study will be key to helping make the next 5 years of the study as successful as the first 5 years have been.

We appreciate the commitment that you and your family have made to this very important study and we will continue to keep you informed about what is happening in CKiD. As always, please contact your study coordinator with any questions or concerns you may have:

_____ (Insert coordinator name and contact info.) _____

You can also contact the principal investigator of the study at _____