

Rebecca J. Schmidt, DO, FACP, FASN  
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Rebecca J. Schmidt is a nephrologist with 32 years of experience as a rural nephrologist, inpatient and outpatient clinician, teacher, division leader, assistant dean, dialysis medical director, and patient and physician advocate. After an intern year at Mount Clemens General Hospital and further training at Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit, she moved to Morgantown, West Virginia in 1993 where she found her passion in rural outreach and advocacy. During her 17-year tenure as Chief of Nephrology at West Virginia University School of Medicine, she led the initiative to decentralize the nephrology outpatient clinic system, expanding its reach to patients from more than 30 West Virginia counties through the development of 12 clinic sites for chronic kidney disease care. Dr. Schmidt has served in a number of national roles, including an extended term as (the first and only woman) President of the Renal Physicians Association and as a member of many boards, forums, committees, task forces, technical expert panels and initiatives related to advocacy for and care of patients with kidney disease. She led a statewide effort to increase public awareness of risks of kidney disease in West Virginia through multiple free screenings, the production and dissemination of 12,000 CKD education packets, and traveling CME and annual conferences dedicated to primary care of kidney disease, and most recently led development of NephRef™, a digital application conceived and created by the Division of Nephrology at WVU to educate and empower primary care providers in the delivery of optimal and timely care of patients with kidney diseases.