

Kidney screening can save life

DEAR ABBY: In March of last year, I saw your column about the upcoming World Kidney Day, when the National Kidney Foundation would offer free screenings around the country through their Kidney Early Evaluation Program (KEEP). You encouraged your readers to find the location of their local KEEP screenings, so I did

Well, my lab tests from the KEEP screening showed that my kidneys had not been properly filtering toxins from my body.

Armed with those test results I made an appointment with my doctor. She had never checked my kidney function before. Once she saw the results of my kidney function tests were low, she suggested major diet and exercise changes and took me off two medications she suspected were too much for my kidneys to handle.

Today, I feel great. What a blessing that I read your column that day, Abby, and went to the KEEP screening. If I hadn't, I could be on dialysis, waiting for a kidney transplant or, worse, not here at all.

**Carol Ann Johnson,
Independence, Mo.**