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As obesity rates continue to rise in this country and more people are being diagnosed with type-2 diabetes, thousand of Americans are suffering from End Stage Renal Disease or kidney failure, because diabetes is the leading cause.

Today, approximately 400-thousand people in the U.S. suffer from this ailment and many will need dialysis. And as health care costs continue to rise and the number of patients continue to grow, guaranteed federal benefits that once paid for dialysis, may not be enough. With that story, here's Medical Reporter Christy Feig.

FEIG: Angela Hancock was diagnosed with a rare kidney disease at the age of eleven. Now at 36, after two failed kidney transplants, she spends four hours a day, three days a week in dialysis while waiting for another kidney.

HANCOCK: "There's days that I come home..I can't get up off the couch, I'm laying around...can't do nothing..but there are days like today..I've had a pretty good day."

FEIG: This center services hundreds of patients, who without this service would have a hard time getting this lifesaving care. Some could do difficult in-home dialysis.

WILLIAMS: (Clinical Mgr. Leonardtown Dialysis) "The other option would be to travel 30 miles up the road, three times a week, but I have had those patients that have told me..that they wouldn't do anything, that they would just go home and die."

FEIG: By law after a patient has been on dialysis for 30 months Medicare must pay for treatments no matter how old the patient is. The Medicare budget is tight and dialysis payments are not increased with inflation. So as the cost care rises and more patients pour into the system, the dialysis industry suffers.

KENT THIRY: "If things don't change, more centers will close....but the more incidious...much more common problem that will emerge, that patients will be forced to get dialysis very early in the morning and very late at night.."

FEIG: The industry is asking Congress to change the law and give them the same annual increases other medical treatment programs receive. Health analysts say unless that changes, people like Angela may lose the facilities they so desperately need.

I'm Christy Feig in Washington.