

It's My Choice



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Peter has been happily married to June for almost 62 years and feels blessed with five children and seven grandsons. At the age of 71 he discovered he had kidney failure and decided at that time he wouldn't have dialysis. “I would much prefer to be free.” Now, at the age of 86 with end stage kidney failure, he remains happy with his decision. “On the way to the kidney clinic I pass through all the people that have dialysis...they don't look happy, and I am much happier without the dialysis...”

Being given the choice of the kind of treatment he would receive was very important to Peter. “That was one of the main things that I really appreciated...that I was given the option of choice.” Selecting the conservative, non-dialysis approach to his care allows him to maximize his time at home and maintain his independence. “You have more control over your life”

Peter admits that his kidney disease has curtailed his activities and that he feels very tired much of the time but despite this he “feels very good about life.” For Peter, the focus for the remainder of his life is his wife and their family. “I don't want to live forever and I don't want to be a burden to anybody.”

“As long as I can help myself, then I am very happy to be alive.”