UC San Diego Health Physician Directory

Our physicians are recognized leaders in their professional societies, heading national organizations and committees dedicated to improving care and advancing knowledge about disease. They are prominently listed in publications such as America’s Top Doctors and U.S. News & World Report’s rankings of outstanding physicians and clinical programs.

Patient Access

Request an Appointment
Whether you’re looking for a primary care physician (PCP), need a specialist for treatment or are seeking a second opinion, you can make an appointment by following the steps below:

→ New Patients (who have never seen a UC San Diego Health provider)
   To register as a new patient and schedule an appointment, call 800-926-8273, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

→ Current Patients
   Contact your physician’s office directly to schedule an appointment or call the main switchboard number, 858-657-7000, and ask to be transferred to your physician’s office.

→ Find a Doctor
   To use our physician search website to find a physician by name or to search for a specialist, visit: doctors.ucsd.edu.

Referring Physician Access

Transfer a Patient
For hospital-to-hospital transfers, call 619-543-5709 (24-hour service) for instructions or to speak to a transfer coordinator.

Consultations
If you need to talk with one of our physicians about a case or if you have any problems or concerns, please contact us at 855-543-0555 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. We want to hear from you.

Refer Your Patient
Call Physician Access at 855-543-0555 or fax 888-539-8781 and our team will register and schedule your referred patient. You will receive follow-up communication (consultation notes, discharges, etc.), as well as access to our electronic medical record system, UCSD Link.
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200 West Arbor Drive  
San Diego, CA 92103 | **Rady Children’s Hospital–San Diego**  
3020 Children’s Way  
San Diego, CA 92123 |
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4168 Front Street  
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959 Lane Avenue  
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Temecula, CA 92592 |
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1200 Garden View Road  
Encinitas, CA 92024 | **Sorrento Valley**  
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San Diego, CA 92121 |
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9909 Mira Mesa Blvd.  
San Diego, CA 92131 | |
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9434 Medical Center Drive  
La Jolla, CA 92093 | |
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3855 Health Sciences Drive  
La Jolla, CA 92093 | |
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9300 Campus Point Drive  
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Nephrology (Kidney)

Nephrology is the specialty of medicine and pediatrics focusing on the study of kidney function, and the treatment of kidney problems. Learn more about nephrology (kidney) at UC San Diego Health System.

Joachim H. Ix, MD
Chief, Division of Nephrology-Hypertension
Professor of Medicine

Specialty:
Nephrology (Kidney)

Add'l Language:
German

Jacobs Medical Center
Hillcrest - UC San Diego Medical Center
Hillcrest - Medical Offices South

Contact:
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line: (619) 543-6397

Bio:
Joachim Ix, MD, is a board-certified nephrologist who cares for patients with kidney disease, including end-stage renal disease and acute renal failure as a result of underlying conditions such as diabetes, hypertension, lupus, sepsis and glomerulonephritis. He is chief of the Division of Nephrology-Hypertension.

Bethany E. Karl, DO
Nephrologist
Assistant Professor of Medicine

Specialties:
Hospital Medicine, Nephrology (Kidney)

Jacobs Medical Center
Hillcrest - UC San Diego Medical Center

Contact:
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line: (619) 543-6397

Bio:
Bethany E. Karl, DO, is board-certified nephrologist. She is an assistant professor in Department of Medicine and works in the Divisions of Nephrology as well as Hospital Medicine at UC San Diego School of Medicine.

Noureddin Nourbakhsh, DO
Nephrologist
Assistant Professor of Medicine

Specialty:
Nephrology (Kidney)

Add'l Language:
Spanish

Hillcrest - Medical Offices South
La Jolla - Perlman Medical Offices

Contact:
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line: (619) 543-6397

Bio:
Noureddin Nourbakhsh, DO, is a board-certified nephrologist with a special interest in caring for pediatric patients with a range of kidney conditions, including chronic kidney disease, hypertension, renal transplant, genetic renal disorders, glomerulonephritis, and renal cystic disease. He helps lead a clinic twice a month that coordinates the transition of pediatric patients to adult nephrology care as they come of age.
Nephrology (Kidney) (cont.)

Robert W. Steiner, MD
Co-Director of Transplant Nephrology
Medical Director, Kidney & Pancreas Transplantation
Professor of Medicine

Specialties:
Nephrology (Kidney), Transplantation

Subspecialty:
Kidney Transplantation

La Jolla - 4510 Executive Drive
Hillcrest - Medical Offices South

Contact:
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line - Executive Dr.: (858) 657-7729
Direct Clinic Line - Hillcrest: (619) 543-6248

Bio:
In the years I have taught and practiced at UC San Diego (and for a time in the community), I have seen countless improvements in the care of kidney patients. Our understanding of kidney diseases and dialysis management has never been better. At the same time, our ability to prevent kidney transplant failure has markedly improved. We now better understand the risks of living kidney donation. Working with the transplant team at UCSD, and with others across the country, has helped us to successfully address these issues.

Michael G. Ziegler, MD
Director, Hypertension Clinic; Program Director, UCSD General Clinical Research Center
Professor

Specialty:
Nephrology (Kidney)

Hillcrest - UC San Diego Medical Center
Hillcrest - Medical Offices South

Contact:
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line: (619) 543-6303

Bio:
"I carry out research on disorders of blood pressure control. My current studies include studies on the causes of hypertension including genetics, sleep apnea and stress. I also study the causes of postural hypotension including space flight, bed rest and autonomic insufficiency."
Nephrology (Kidney) - Apheresis

Robyn Cunard, MD
Nephrologist
Assistant Professor of Medicine

Specialty:
Nephrology (Kidney)

Subspecialties:
Apheresis, Chronic Kidney Disease

Hillcrest - Medical Offices South
Jacobs Medical Center
La Jolla - Perlman Medical Offices

Contact:
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273

Bio:
Robyn Cunard, MD is a board-certified nephrologist, with a special interest in glomerular diseases. She specializes in general nephrology and hypertension care, hemodialysis and apheresis.

Amber Paratore Sanchez, MD
Nephrologist
Associate Professor of Medicine

Specialty:
Nephrology (Kidney)

Subspecialties:
Apheresis, Chronic Kidney Disease, Dialysis

La Jolla - Koman Family Outpatient Pavilion
Jacobs Medical Center
La Jolla - Perlman Medical Offices
Hillcrest - Medical Offices South

Contact:
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line: (619) 543-6397
Direct Clinic Line - Koman Family Outpatient Pavilion: (858) 249-3030

Bio:
Amber Sanchez, MD, is a board-certified nephrologist and medical director of the therapeutic apheresis program at UC San Diego Health.

Scott Mullaney, MD
Nephrologist
Professor of Medicine

Specialty:
Nephrology (Kidney)

Subspecialties:
Chronic Kidney Disease, Dialysis, Apheresis

Jacobs Medical Center
Hillcrest - UC San Diego Medical Center
Hillcrest - Medical Offices South

Contact:
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line - Hillcrest: (619) 543-6248
Direct Clinic Line: (619) 543-6397

Bio:
Scott Mullaney, MD, is a board-certified nephrologist who cares for patients with acute kidney injury, chronic kidney disease and end-stage renal disease with a particular interest in peritoneal dialysis. He is the clinical service chief for the Nephrology Division at UC San Diego Health.
Nephrology (Kidney) - Apheresis (cont.)

Natalie Sweiss, MD, FASN
Nephrologist
Assistant Professor of Medicine

**Specialty:**
Nephrology (Kidney)

**Subspecialties:**
Chronic Kidney Disease, Critical Care Nephrology, Apheresis

**Hillcrest - UC San Diego Medical Center**
Jacobs Medical Center
Sulpizio Cardiovascular Center
Hillcrest - Medical Offices South
La Jolla - Perlman Medical Offices

**Contact:**
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line: (619) 543-6397

**Bio:**
Natalie Sweiss, MD, is a board-certified nephrologist who cares for patients with kidney disease including chronic kidney disease, end-stage kidney disease and acute kidney injury. She provides apheresis and hemodialysis treatments to chronic and acute patients.

Danuta Trzebinska, MD
Nephrologist
Associate Professor of Medicine

**Specialty:**
Nephrology (Kidney)

**Subspecialties:**
Chronic Kidney Disease, Dialysis, Apheresis

**Add'l Language:**
Polish

**Jacobs Medical Center**
Hillcrest - UC San Diego Medical Center
Hillcrest - Medical Offices South

**Contact:**
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line - Hillcrest: (619) 543-6248
Direct Clinic Line: (619) 543-6397

**Bio:**
Danuta Trzebinska, MD, is a board-certified nephrologist with a special interest in chronic kidney disease. She is medical director of the Chronic Kidney Disease Program at UC San Diego Health.

Scott Culver Thomson, MD
Staff Physician
Professor of Medicine

**Specialty:**
Nephrology (Kidney)

**Subspecialty:**
Apheresis

**Jacobs Medical Center**
Hillcrest - UC San Diego Medical Center

**Contact:**
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273

**Bio:**
Dr. Thomson is the Chief of Nephrology at VASDHS and is responsible for the nephrology service at UC San Diego Thornton Pavilion for 5 to 6 months out of the year.
Nephrology (Kidney) - Apheresis (cont.)

David Malcom Ward, MD, FRCP
Nephrologist
Professor of Clinical Medicine, Emeritus

Specialties:
Nephrology (Kidney), Transplantation

Subspecialties:
Kidney Transplantation, Apheresis

Contact:
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line: (619) 543-6397
Direct Clinic Line - Executive Dr.: (858) 657-7729
Direct Clinic Line - Koman Family Outpatient Pavilion: (858) 249-3030

Bio:
David Malcom Ward, MD, is a nephrologist who specializes in apheresis, a medical procedure that involves passing a person's blood through a device that separates out a component of the blood from its other parts and returns the remainder of the blood into circulation.
Nephrology (Kidney) - Chronic Kidney Disease

Joseph A. Abdelmalek, MD
Nephrologist
Assistant Professor of Medicine

**Specialty:**
Nephrology (Kidney)

**Subspecialties:**
Chronic Kidney Disease, Critical Care Nephrology

**Hillcrest - UC San Diego Medical Center**
**Jacobs Medical Center**

**Contact:**
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line: (619) 543-6397

**Bio:**
Joseph Abdelmalek, MD, is a board-certified nephrologist who cares for patients with acute kidney injury, chronic kidney disease and end-stage renal disease. He also has expertise in treating electrolyte disorders.

Dinna N. Cruz, MD, MPH
Nephrologist
Professor of Medicine

**Specialty:**
Nephrology (Kidney)

**Subspecialties:**
Critical Care Nephrology, Chronic Kidney Disease

**Add'l Languages:**
Italian, Tagalog

**La Jolla - Perlman Medical Offices**
**Hillcrest - UC San Diego Medical Center**
**Jacobs Medical Center**

**Contact:**
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line: (619) 543-6397

**Bio:**
Dinna Cruz, MD, MPH, is a board-certified nephrologist. Her expertise is treating patients with both acute and chronic kidney diseases caused by all types of underlying conditions, including hypertension, diabetes, polycystic kidney disease, glomerulonephritis, lupus, and sepsis. She specializes in treating people with acute kidney injury (also known as "kidney attack") and cardiorenal syndrome (individuals affected by both heart and kidney disease).
Nephrology (Kidney) - Chronic Kidney Disease (cont.)

**Robyn Cunard, MD**  
Nephrologist  
Assistant Professor of Medicine

**Specialty:**  
Nephrology (Kidney)  

**Subspecialties:**  
Apheresis, Chronic Kidney Disease

**Contact:**  
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273

**Bio:**  
Robyn Cunard, MD is a board-certified nephrologist, with a special interest in glomerular diseases. She specializes in general nephrology and hypertension care, hemodialysis and apheresis.

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**Cynthia Miracle, MD**  
Nephrologist  
Assistant Professor of Medicine

**Specialty:**  
Nephrology (Kidney)  

**Subspecialties:**  
Dialysis

**Contact:**  
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273

**Bio:**  
Cynthia M. Miracle, MD, is a board-certified nephrologist who cares for chronic hemodialysis and renal transplant patients. She also provides nephrology consultation for patients who are hospitalized.

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**Pranav Garimella, MBBS, MPH, FASN**  
Nephrologist  
Assistant Professor of Medicine

**Specialty:**  
Nephrology (Kidney)  

**Subspecialty:**  
Chronic Kidney Disease

**Add'l Languages:**  
Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, Urdu

**Contact:**  
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273  
Direct Clinic Line: (619) 543-6397

**Bio:**  
Pranav Garimella, MBBS, MPH, is a board-certified nephrologist who provides care for a wide range of kidney diseases, including chronic kidney disease, glomerulonephritis, hypertension, and acute kidney injury. He has a special interest in polycystic kidney disease, kidney stones, and metabolic bone disease.

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**Scott Mullaney, MD**  
Nephrologist  
Professor of Medicine

**Specialty:**  
Nephrology (Kidney)  

**Subspecialties:**  
Dialysis, Apheresis

**Contact:**  
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273  
Direct Clinic Line - Hillcrest: (619) 543-6248  
Direct Clinic Line: (619) 543-6397

**Bio:**  
Scott Mullaney, MD, is a board-certified nephrologist who cares for patients with acute kidney injury, chronic kidney disease and end-stage renal disease with a particular interest in peritoneal dialysis. He is the clinical service chief for the Nephrology Division at UC San Diego Health.
Nephrology (Kidney) - Chronic Kidney Disease (cont.)

Amber Paratore Sanchez, MD
Nephrologist
Associate Professor of Medicine

**Specialty:**
Nephrology (Kidney)

**Subspecialties:**
Apheresis, Chronic Kidney Disease, Dialysis

La Jolla - Koman Family Outpatient Pavilion
Jacobs Medical Center
La Jolla - Perlman Medical Offices
Hillcrest - Medical Offices South

**Contact:**
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line: (619) 543-6397
Direct Clinic Line - Koman Family Outpatient Pavilion: (858) 249-3030

**Bio:**
Amber Sanchez, MD, is a board-certified nephrologist and medical director of the [therapeutic apheresis program](#) at UC San Diego Health.

Natalie Sweiss, MD, FASN
Nephrologist
Assistant Professor of Medicine

**Specialty:**
Nephrology (Kidney)

**Subspecialties:**
Chronic Kidney Disease, Critical Care Nephrology, Apheresis

Hillcrest - UC San Diego Medical Center
Jacobs Medical Center
Sulpizio Cardiovascular Center
Hillcrest - Medical Offices South
La Jolla - Perlman Medical Offices

**Contact:**
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line: (619) 543-6397

**Bio:**
Natalie Sweiss, MD, is a board-certified nephrologist who cares for patients with kidney disease including chronic kidney disease, end-stage kidney disease and acute kidney injury. She provides apheresis and hemodialysis treatments to chronic and acute patients.
Danuta Trzebinska, MD
Nephrologist
Associate Professor of Medicine

**Specialty:**
Nephrology (Kidney)

**Subspecialties:**
Chronic Kidney Disease, Dialysis, Apheresis

**Add'l Language:**
Polish

**Jacobs Medical Center**
**Hillcrest - UC San Diego Medical Center**
**Hillcrest - Medical Offices South**

**Contact:**
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line - Hillcrest: (619) 543-6248
Direct Clinic Line: (619) 543-6397

**Bio:**
Danuta Trzebinska, MD, is a board-certified nephrologist with a special interest in chronic kidney disease. She is medical director of the Chronic Kidney Disease Program at UC San Diego Health.
Nephrology (Kidney) - Critical Care Nephrology

Joseph A. Abdelmalek, MD
Nephrologist
Assistant Professor of Medicine

**Specialty:**
Nephrology (Kidney)

**Subspecialties:**
Chronic Kidney Disease, Critical Care Nephrology

**Hillcrest - UC San Diego Medical Center**
**Jacobs Medical Center**

**Contact:**
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line: (619) 543-6397

**Bio:**
Joseph Abdelmalek, MD, is a board-certified nephrologist who cares for patients with acute kidney injury, chronic kidney disease and end-stage renal disease. He also has expertise in treating electrolyte disorders.

Dinna N. Cruz, MD, MPH
Nephrologist
Professor of Medicine

**Specialty:**
Nephrology (Kidney)

**Subspecialties:**
Critical Care Nephrology, Chronic Kidney Disease

**Add'l Languages:**
Italian, Tagalog

**La Jolla - Perlman Medical Offices**
**Hillcrest - UC San Diego Medical Center**
**Jacobs Medical Center**

**Contact:**
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line: (619) 543-6397

**Bio:**
Dinna Cruz, MD, MPH, is a board-certified nephrologist. Her expertise is treating patients with both acute and chronic kidney diseases caused by all types of underlying conditions, including hypertension, diabetes, polycystic kidney disease, glomerulonephritis, lupus, and sepsis. She specializes in treating people with acute kidney injury (also known as "kidney attack") and cardiorenal syndrome (individuals affected by both heart and kidney disease).
Nephrology (Kidney) - Critical Care Nephrology (cont.)

Natalie Sweiss, MD, FASN
Nephrologist
Assistant Professor of Medicine

**Specialty:**
Nephrology (Kidney)

**Subspecialties:**
Chronic Kidney Disease, Critical Care Nephrology, Apheresis

Hillcrest - UC San Diego Medical Center
Jacobs Medical Center
Sulpizio Cardiovascular Center
Hillcrest - Medical Offices South
La Jolla - Perlman Medical Offices

**Contact:**
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line: (619) 543-6397

**Bio:**
Natalie Sweiss, MD, is a board-certified nephrologist who cares for patients with kidney disease including chronic kidney disease, end-stage kidney disease and acute kidney injury. She provides apheresis and hemodialysis treatments to chronic and acute patients.
Nephrology (Kidney) - Dialysis

Cynthia Miracle, MD
Nephrologist
Assistant Professor of Medicine

**Specialty:**
Nephrology (Kidney)

**Subspecialties:**
Chronic Kidney Disease, Dialysis

**Jacobs Medical Center**
Hillcrest - UC San Diego Medical Center
Hillcrest - Medical Offices South

**Contact:**
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273

**Bio:**
Cynthia M. Miracle, MD, is a board-certified nephrologist who cares for chronic hemodialysis and renal transplant patients. She also provides nephrology consultation for patients who are hospitalized.

Scott Mullaney, MD
Nephrologist
Professor of Medicine

**Specialty:**
Nephrology (Kidney)

**Subspecialties:**
Chronic Kidney Disease, Dialysis, Apheresis

**Jacobs Medical Center**
Hillcrest - UC San Diego Medical Center
Hillcrest - Medical Offices South

**Contact:**
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273

**Direct Clinic Line - Hillcrest:** (619) 543-6248
**Direct Clinic Line:** (619) 543-6397

**Bio:**
Scott Mullaney, MD, is a board-certified nephrologist who cares for patients with acute kidney injury, chronic kidney disease and end-stage renal disease with a particular interest in peritoneal dialysis. He is the clinical service chief for the Nephrology Division at UC San Diego Health.

Robert Parmer, MD
Professor of Medicine

**Specialty:**
Nephrology (Kidney)

**Subspecialty:**
Dialysis

**Contact:**
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273

**Bio:**
Dr. Parmer is Professor of Medicine in the Division of Nephrology/Hypertension at the University of California, San Diego, and VA San Diego Healthcare System. Dr. Parmer’s nephrology practice includes: diagnosis and management of essential and secondary forms of hypertension, acute and chronic kidney disease, diabetic nephropathy, hemodialysis, general and ICU nephrology.

Amber Paratore Sanchez, MD
Nephrologist
Associate Professor of Medicine

**Specialty:**
Nephrology (Kidney)

**Subspecialties:**
Apheresis, Chronic Kidney Disease, Dialysis

**La Jolla - Koman Family Outpatient Pavilion**
Jacobs Medical Center
La Jolla - Perlman Medical Offices
Hillcrest - Medical Offices South

**Contact:**
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
**Direct Clinic Line:** (619) 543-6397
**Direct Clinic Line - Koman Family Outpatient Pavilion:** (858) 249-3030

**Bio:**
Amber Sanchez, MD, is a board-certified nephrologist and medical director of the [therapeutic apheresis program](https://health.ucsd.edu) at UC San Diego Health.
Mita M. Shah, MD  
Nephrologist  
Associate Professor of Medicine  

**Specialties:**  
Nephrology (Kidney), Transplantation  

**Subspecialties:**  
Pancreas Transplantation, Dialysis, Kidney Transplantation  

**La Jolla - 4510 Executive Drive**  
**Hillcrest - Medical Offices South**  

**Contact:**  
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273  
Direct Clinic Line - Executive Dr.: (858) 657-7729  
Direct Clinic Line - Hillcrest: (619) 543-6248  

**Bio:**  
Mita Shah, MD, is a board-certified nephrologist who specializes in the care and management of kidney transplant patients with a special interest in the management of immunosuppression to improve long-term graft survival.

Danuta Trzebinska, MD  
Nephrologist  
Associate Professor of Medicine  

**Specialty:**  
Nephrology (Kidney)  

**Subspecialties:**  
Chronic Kidney Disease, Dialysis, Apheresis  

**Add'l Language:**  
Polish  

**Jacobs Medical Center**  
**Hillcrest - UC San Diego Medical Center**  
**Hillcrest - Medical Offices South**  

**Contact:**  
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273  
Direct Clinic Line - Hillcrest: (619) 543-6248  
Direct Clinic Line: (619) 543-6397  

**Bio:**  
Danuta Trzebinska, MD, is a board-certified nephrologist with a special interest in chronic kidney disease. She is medical director of the [Chronic Kidney Disease Program](https://health.ucsd.edu) at UC San Diego Health.
Nephrology (Kidney) - Transplant Nephrology

Adnan Khan, MBBS, FASN, FNKF
Nephrologist

Specialties:
Nephrology (Kidney), Transplantation

Subspecialties:
Kidney Transplantation, Transplant Nephrology, Pancreas Transplantation

Add'l Languages:
Hindi, Urdu

La Jolla - 4510 Executive Drive
Hillcrest - Medical Offices South

Contact:
New Patient Registration: (800) 926-8273
Direct Clinic Line - La Jolla: (858) 657-7729
Direct Clinic Line - Hillcrest: (619) 543-6248

Bio:
Adnan Khan, MBBS, is a board-certified nephrologist who specializes in all aspects of kidney and pancreas transplantation. He also has expertise in treating patients with complex cases of hypertension.
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