



**Canadian Society of Nephrology/  
Société canadienne de néphrologie**  
CSN/SCN

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The Unicode Consortium  
PO Box 391476  
Mountain View, CA. 94039-1476

**RE: Creation of a kidney emoji**

Dear Unicode Consortium:

The Canadian Society of Nephrology (CSN) is a society of physicians and scientists specializing in the care of people with kidney disease, and in research related to the kidney and kidney disease.

On behalf of the CSN, I would like to recommend the creation of a kidney emoji to help represent the more than 850,000,000 people with kidney disease worldwide—including at least 4,000,000 people in Canada with kidney diseases.

Emojis are an important part of global dialogue today. Emojis enables us to better express tone and provide emotional cues and this enables us to better manage the ongoing flow of information, and to interpret what the words are meant to convey. There are more than 3,500 emojis in the Unicode Consortium, representing many aspects of everyday life. However, only three medically and anatomically accurate emojis exist, representing the brain, heart, and lungs. No emoji exists for kidneys, despite their vital role in global health. 🙄

The more than 600 CSN members across Canada believe that a kidney emoji would greatly improve the quality of health care. It could be a valuable tool in the field of medicine, allowing patients to better communicate symptoms, concerns, and other clinically relevant information. It takes communication to another level. A kidney emoji would also help to represent the 850,000,000 people worldwide who have kidney diseases. A medically and anatomically accurate kidney emoji could also help to achieve equity in health care around the world.

Creating an emoji representing the kidney would create opportunities for nephrologists and other health professionals to discuss concerns about kidney health—such as kidney pain, kidney stones, acute kidney injury, and kidney diseases—with their patients in an efficient and timely manner. An emoji allows for simplified communication that would assist doctors and nurses to discuss kidney concerns with all patients. With the current increase in the use of telehealth, emojis are more important than ever.

For these reasons, the CSN supports the development of a kidney emoji.

Sincerely,

Sanjay Pandeya, MD. FRCPC. FACP.  
CSN President

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