



Mendez
NATIONAL INSTITUTE
of **TRANSPLANTATION FOUNDATION**



FIXING PACO

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Fixing Paco, a telenovela hybrid style series created by MNIT to provide vital transplant information to the Latino End-Stage Renal Disease population, has generated excitement in the medical community as well as the Latino Community. Our goal is for this unique educational tool to be available to dialysis patients nationally and internationally. (*Fixing Paco* is in English and Spanish.)

Fixing Paco won 2012 Best Webisode at the Reel Rasquache Art & Film Festival in East Los Angeles. This international festival showcases films about the U.S. Latino experience. *Fixing Paco* (Episode 1) was nominated for the Imagen Award Best Drama Web Series in 2013. In 2014, *Fixing Paco* (Episode 9) was nominated for the Imagen Award Best Comedy Web Series, Best Drama Web Series and Best Reality or Informational Web Series.

Fixing Paco follows the Fuentes family triumph in battling kidney failure. It is a fictional story intended to educate dialysis patients about the treatment option of transplantation, including living donation, and being proactive in healthcare.

Margie Fuentes (Gloria Garayua), a peppy young adult and aspiring doctor, deals with the stress of her father's kidney failure by video blogging. Her father, Paco (Paul Rodriguez) struggles with dialysis. Not only is his health failing, but so is his handy man business. Fortunately for Paco, he has the support of his family to help him get through the ups and downs. *Fixing Paco* shows the Fuentes family vulnerabilities but importantly highlights their strength and determination that ultimately helps them prevail.

Paco's most difficult decision is whether or not to accept a kidney from one of his adult children. While his children and wife, Carmencita (Marabina Jaimes), all want to donate one of their kidney's, the question becomes who is going to donate? Margie is in college; Paco Jr. (Alfredo Avila) is now running the Fuentes handy man business; and Daniel (Christian Chavez-Latin pop sensation of RBD) is afraid of needles let alone surgery. The family works together to support Paco and determine who will donate.

While the Fuentes all want Paco to get a transplant, Paco's fiery aunt, Tia Julia (Soledad St. Hilaire), just returned to dialysis after her transplant failed. Although Tia Julia was non-compliant in caring for her transplant, she blames everyone but herself for her failed transplant.

Fixing Paco delivers some heart wrenching and powerful performances by Paul Rodriguez, Emmy-winning actress Marabina Jaimes, Soledad St. Hilaire and Ingrid Oliu, Tia Julia's downtrodden daughter, Daisy. The series also stars Alfredo Avila, Carolyn Wilson, Alejandro de Hoyes, Alfoso di Luca and Adrian Gonzales.

To view the *Fixing Paco*, go to www.FixingPaco.org