

Conservative Kidney Management

Pathway Development

Conservative Kidney Management (CKM) is a treatment option that some end-stage renal patients choose as an alternative to dialysis or transplant.

It is important to note that patients who choose CKM do *not* stop receiving care. These patients often have very complex needs that range from symptom management to advance care planning to preparing for end of life.

The Kidney Strategic Clinical Network has received a three year grant to develop a Provincial Kidney Conservative Care Clinical Pathway that will provide sustainable, high-quality, evidence-based care for patients unlikely to benefit from dialysis.

What's the Plan?

Together with you, we plan to:

- improve the experience of our patients and their families when CKM is the chosen treatment.
- develop processes and tools that will help providers across the province and across the continuum of care to provide consistent, high-quality CKM care.
- engage stakeholders in a collaborative process from beginning to end, so that the final result is comprehensive, practical, and beneficial for patients and families.

Contact

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Why is this Important?

For some elderly patients, dialysis provides no benefit. These patients are often frail, and experience functional decline and cognitive impairment after starting dialysis. The last days of their lives are often characterized by high rates of hospitalization, ICU admissions, and intensive procedures.

Patients whose chronic kidney disease is managed conservatively (without dialysis) may live as long as patients who elect to start dialysis. They tend to preserve their functional status, maintain a better overall quality of life, and have fewer hospital admissions.

If you have an interest in this area, please feel free to contact us to receive future updates about this project!

How to Get Involved

- ➔ Provide your input at a **facilitated workshop** to discuss what is going well and can be improved for conservative kidney care patients in Alberta:

Calgary: Thurs, Nov 12 from 1-4pm

**eligible physicians will receive a meeting stipend as per AHS Provincial Medical Affairs*

- ➔ We are starting **working groups** and are currently developing the clinical guidelines. If you are interested in being involved, please contact us. We will also have Evaluation and Implementation Committees.
- ➔ The pathway will be circulated in March 2016 for **input**, and **pilot implementation** will begin in September 2016