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**Effecting Palliative Care for Chronic Kidney Disease Patients by Increasing Provider Knowledge**

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Chronic kidney disease affects over 30 million Americans, leading to end stage renal disease for over 600,000. Advance care planning and palliative care consultation can meet the needs of many patients with incurable illness by decreasing symptom burden and improving quality of life. Unfortunately, many nephrology providers focus patient care on dialysis and are not comfortable discussing advance care planning or palliative care. The evidence-based quality initiative project purpose was to increase shared decision making, advance care planning and palliative care referrals, thus improving quality of life for renal patients by increasing nephrology providers' knowledge of the Renal Physician Association guidelines on Shared Decision Making in the Appropriate Initiation of and Withdrawal from Dialysis. The guidelines offer tools for providers in determining patient prognosis, facilitating advance care plans and appropriate palliative care referral. The project design was an evidence-based quality initiative, not-human subjects research. Thirteen nephrology providers and nurses received the educational intervention in the autumn months in 2017. Post-intervention outcomes included four renal palliative care referrals and 22 Advance Care Plans over four months from a baseline of zero. Palliative care provides symptom relief related to renal disease and other chronic conditions, allowing patients comfort and improved quality of life. Benefits of this project to nephrology nursing and society are vast, minimizing burden on caregivers, nursing staff, and the health care system.

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