

Caring for people with kidney disease

Psychosocial health – a manifesto for action



10 recommendations from the National Psychosocial Working Group

The National Psychosocial Working Group brings together expert voices from across the specialist renal psychosocial care professions, alongside leading patient support charity Kidney Care UK.

This manifesto, the product of extensive research in this field, makes the following ten key recommendations for the improvement of the care provided for ALL people living with kidney disease.

When adopted, these recommendations will ensure that psychosocial needs receive the prominence they deserve in the care plans of all patients.

Psychosocial definition –

Psychosocial is used to refer to the full range of psychological, psychiatric and social care needs.

Identification of psychosocial care needs

- 1** All kidney patients to have their psychosocial needs assessed using validated methods,
 - 1.** at diagnosis,
 - 2.** as they change treatment
 - 3.** as they go through different stages of kidney disease,
 - 4.** at times of distress,
 - 5.** annually.

Provision of psychosocial care at all levels of need

- 2** All kidney patients to be provided with appropriate psychosocial input that fully supports their level of need, as part of their standard NHS care.
- 3** Psychosocial interventions should increase with a person's level of need.

Integration of kidney patient care

- 4** Psychosocial needs to be integrated into kidney patient care plans.
- 5** NHS Integrated Care Systems or NHS Health Boards to ensure different parts of the system are joined-up to support the psychosocial needs of people with kidney disease, as well as their physical health.
- 6** Multidisciplinary teams (MDTs) to integrate specialist renal psychology, counselling, social work and psychiatry to ensure kidney patients have access to all the support they need to help them manage their condition.

Psychosocial workforce needs

- 7** Staffing levels to be monitored to support access to psychosocial care.
- 8** All renal staff to receive training in the mental health needs of kidney patients . All mental health staff to have basic training on renal disease, causes and management.

Accountability and reporting

- 9** Minimum national standards of psychosocial care to be introduced and monitored so all patients receive equal access to the care they need, regardless of geography.
- 10** A dashboard to be created to monitor the success of psychosocial services in improving kidney patient health. National renal and mental health teams to determine number of people who are on both the renal and the severe mental illness registers.

We cannot achieve this change alone; we need your help!

Read our manifesto and find out how you can get involved to improve the lives of people living with kidney disease.

To download, scan the QR code or go to www.kidneycareuk.org/manifesto



National Psychosocial Working Group



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promoting excellence in psychology



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