

Chronic kidney disease

National clinical guideline for early identification and management in adults in primary and secondary care

Developed by the National Collaborating Centre for Chronic Conditions at the Royal College of Physicians

Chronic kidney disease (CKD) is of growing importance in the UK. The NHS is increasingly focusing on prevention and on the early detection and treatment of this potentially progressive disease, while the prevalence of risk factors for CKD, such as diabetes, obesity and hypertension, is rising.

In commissioning this guideline, the Department of Health was clear that its focus should be early detection and management. This is the area where the guideline can deliver its greatest potential benefit, by delaying progression of disease and therefore reducing the need for dialysis or transplant. The key recommendations singled out in the guideline reflect this emphasis. They present clear criteria for testing for CKD, for suspecting progressive CKD, and for referring people for specialist assessment, all of which will be useful in primary care. Recommendations are also provided on starting treatment once proteinuria has been assessed.

As well as providing a comprehensive guide to the identification and management of patients with CKD for general practitioners and general physicians, the guideline will also be relevant to nephrologists, diabetologists, nurses, clinical biochemists and other health professionals involved in the care of patients with CKD.

Healthcare professionals in primary care are taking on an increasing role in the management of CKD, and this guideline provides a single useful and accessible reference promoting a consistent high quality of care and an improved quality of life for longer for people with CKD.

Published September 2008

Contents

THE DEVELOPMENT

- Introduction
- Methodology
- Key messages of the guideline

THE GUIDELINE

- Investigation of CKD
- Classification and early identification
- Defining progression of CKD and the risk factors associated with progression
- Referral criteria
- Self management
- Blood pressure control
- Reducing cardiovascular disease
- Asymptomatic hyperuricaemia
- Managing isolated microscopic haematuria
- Specific complications of CKD – renal bone disease
- Specific complications of CKD – anaemia
- Information needs

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