Appendix. Questionnaire

Supporting Primary Care Physicians in the Care of Older Adults with Chronic Kidney Disease, Not on Dialysis

Throughout this survey, please consider your patient(s) with all of these characteristics:
- severe CKD (eGFR <15ml/min/1.73m²)
- not planning on starting dialysis (conservative/palliative care)
- age ≥75 years

A. Have any of the following been a barrier to you when providing care for your patient(s) meeting the above characteristics? A barrier delays or interferes with your patient care.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Your ability to:</th>
<th>Never a barrier</th>
<th>Rarely a barrier</th>
<th>Sometimes a barrier</th>
<th>Often a barrier</th>
<th>Always a barrier</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Help the patient and/or their family understand the risks and benefits of dialysis versus no dialysis</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Understand the progression of CKD when patients are not planning on starting dialysis</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Manage the patient’s symptoms (e.g. pain, shortness of breath, and pruritus)</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Select medications and adjust dosage of medications (e.g. pain medications and antibiotics)</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Know when to discontinue preventative measures (e.g. ASA and statins)</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Work with non-physician healthcare providers (e.g. care aids and home care nurses) who have limited renal-specific clinical expertise</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Access support to maintain the patient in their home setting to avoid transitions of care</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Access resources from the AHS Conservative/Palliative Nephrology Clinic</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Co-manage a specific patient with a nephrologist in a manner that meets your expectations</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
10. Do you have further comments regarding barriers to conservative/palliative care for older adults?

B. Would the following enhance your provision of care for your patient(s) meeting the characteristics?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Definitely would not enhance</th>
<th>Likely would not enhance</th>
<th>Might enhance</th>
<th>Likely would enhance</th>
<th>Definitely would enhance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Educational resources for patients and their families to make dialysis versus non-dialysis treatment decisions</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Access to AHS Palliative Care Services (i.e. physician and/or home care)</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Access to resources from the AHS Conservative/Palliative Nephrology Clinic</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Ability to contact clinical staff from the AHS Conservative/Palliative Nephrology Clinic by telephone</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Ability to contact a nephrologist by phone for advice</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Ability to contact a nephrologist by email or other electronic methods for advice</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Co-management of a specific patient with a nephrologist in a manner that meets your expectations</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Access to a conservative/palliative care online clinical pathway to guide care</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

9. Do you currently refer patients meeting the characteristics to a nephrologist?
   - O Never O Sometimes O Always

10. Do you currently refer patients meeting the characteristics to AHS Palliative Care Services?
    - O Never O Sometimes O Always

11. Do you have further comments regarding supports to enhance conservative/palliative care for older adults?
C. Please select the responses that best represent you.

1. What is your main type of clinical practice setting?
   - Outpatient clinics (e.g. private offices and/or teaching clinics)
   - Continuing care facilities (e.g. assisted living and long-term care)
   - Other: ________________________________

2. Your main clinical practice is a part of which AHS zone?
   - North
   - Edmonton
   - Central
   - Calgary
   - South

3. What is the population size of the city/town of your main clinical practice?
   - Small population center or rural area (< 29,999 people)
   - Large or medium population center (≥ 30,000 people)

4. How many years have you practiced as a primary care physician?
   - < 10 years
   - 10 to 20 years
   - > 20 years

5. In the last 12 months, what percentage of your time at work was dedicated to clinical practice (compared to research and administration)?
   - < 25%
   - 25 to 50%
   - > 50%

6. Do you have a clinical practice interest in the care of the elderly or geriatric patients?
   - Yes
   - No

7. What percentage of your patients are aged ≥75 years?
   - < 25%
   - 25 to 50%
   - > 50%

8. What is your sex?
   - Male
   - Female

9. What is your age?
   - < 40 years
   - 40 to 65 years
   - > 65 years