

**The University of New Mexico  
Informed Consent for Surveys**

**Provider knowledge, attitude, and practices surrounding conservative management for chronic kidney disease: a survey study**

Mark Unruh from the Department of Internal Medicine, Division of Nephrology, is conducting a research study. The purpose of the study is to understand provider knowledge, attitude, and practices surrounding conservative management for patients with chronic kidney disease (CKD). You are being asked to participate in this study because you are a provider who sees CKD patients in your practice.

Your participation will involve answering several questions on SurveyMonkey.com. The survey should take about 10 minutes to complete. Your involvement in the study is voluntary, and you may choose not to participate. There are no names or identifying information associated with this survey. However, if you would like to receive a \$25 e-gift certificate to thank you for your participation, you will have the option of entering your e-mail address at the end of the survey. The survey includes questions such as "How many CKD patients do you see in your practice?" and "Which of the following are components of CKD conservative management?" You can refuse to answer any of the questions at any time. There are no known risks in this study, but some individuals may experience discomfort when answering questions. All data will be kept for 5 years in a locked file in Dr. Unruh's office and then destroyed.

The findings from this project will identify knowledge gaps and attitudinal barriers that contribute to underuse of conservative management in CKD. If published, results will be presented in summary form only.

If you have any questions about this research project, please feel free to call Mark Unruh at (505) 272-0600. If you have questions regarding your legal rights as a research subject, you may call the UNMHSC Office of Human Research Protections at (505) 272-1129.

By clicking "Next" you will be agreeing to participate in the above described research study.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Mark Unruh, MD MS  
Chief, Division of Nephrology

## Clinical Vignette #1

Mrs. Montgomery is a 78 year old woman with HTN, CAD, and COPD diagnosed with stage 4 chronic kidney disease (eGFR = 22 ml/min/1.73m<sup>2</sup>) secondary to DM II. She is capable of making decisions and is able to care for most of her personal needs herself. She adheres to medications and follow-ups.

Answer the following questions about the management of this hypothetical patient:

### 1. In your practice, how likely are you to discuss each of the following management options with this patient?

	Extremely likely	Likely	Neutral	Unlikely	Extremely unlikely
Hemodialysis	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Peritoneal dialysis	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Renal transplant	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Conservative management	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Palliative care	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

### 2. In your practice, which of the following are you likely to prescribe to this patient? (Check all that apply):

- ACE inhibitor/Angiotensin receptor blocker
- Bicarbonate or citrate
- Diet modification
- Erythropoiesis stimulating agent
- Fluid management
- Pain management
- Phosphate binders
- Physical/occupational therapy
- Statin therapy

Other (please specify)

## Clinical Vignette #2

Mr. Suarez is an 83 year old man diagnosed with stage 5 chronic kidney disease (eGFR=9 ml/min/1.73m<sup>2</sup>) secondary to DM II and HTN. He is active and fully independent. He is adherent with medications and follow-ups. He is committed to having his CKD managed conservatively.

Answer the following questions about the management of this hypothetical patient:

### 3. In your practice, which of the following are you likely to prescribe to this patient? (Check all that apply):

- ACE inhibitor/Angiotensin receptor blocker
- Bicarbonate or citrate
- Diet modification
- Erythropoiesis stimulating agent
- Fluid management
- Pain management
- Phosphate binders
- Physical/occupational therapy
- Statin therapy

Other (please specify)

**4. How many of your current CKD patients are you managing with conservative care?**

- None
- 1-2
- 3-4
- 5-10
- >10

**5. Please answer the following questions about your current practices related to conservative management: "I discuss conservative management as a treatment option with \_\_\_\_\_."**

	Always	Very Often	Sometimes	Rarely	Never
my non-dialysis dependent patients nearing CKD stage 5	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
my patients who are not improving on dialysis	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

**6. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements: "I hesitate to discuss conservative management with my CKD patients because \_\_\_\_\_."**

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
I am uncertain about which patients are eligible for conservative management	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
It is difficult to decide whether a patient will be better off managed conservatively	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I do not have enough information about the effectiveness of conservative management versus dialysis	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I have difficulty initiating a discussion of conservative management with my patients	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
It is time-consuming to discuss conservative management with my patients	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I fear how my patients will respond if I discuss conservative management with them	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I value survival length over quality of life	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I do not believe that my patients can choose the management option that is right for them	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

**7. To the best of your knowledge, conservative management of CKD \_\_\_\_\_ :  
(check all that apply)**

- includes symptom management.
- includes advanced care planning.
- is used for patients who forego dialysis.
- is used for patients who started dialysis recently in otherwise good health.
- is used as a bridge to kidney transplantation.
- is the same as palliative care of CKD.
- is the same as end of life care.

**8. To the best of your knowledge, answer the following questions about the differences between conservative management and dialysis care for patients with CKD.**

	True	False	Not sure
Both have comparable survival rates in non-elderly patients (<75 years old)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Both have comparable survival rates in elderly patients (>75 years old)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Both have comparable survival rates in patients with no other chronic health conditions	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Both have comparable survival rates in patients with CAD	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Both have a comparable number of hospital-free days in elderly patients (>75 years)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

**9. To the best of your knowledge, in which of the following patient scenarios do guidelines recommend conservative management for CKD?**

	True	False	Not sure
Patients with decision-making capacity who, being fully informed and making voluntary choices, choose conservative management.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Patients who no longer have decision-making capacity who have previously refused dialysis in an advanced directive or whose family members refuse dialysis.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Patients whose medical condition precludes the technical process of dialysis because the patient is unable to cooperate or is too unstable.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Patients with stage 5 CKD who are older than age 75.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Patients who have a terminal illness from non-renal causes.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Patients who have significantly impaired functional status.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

## Demographic Information

The following questions collect your demographic information.

### 10. What is your age?

- 20-29
- 30-39
- 40-49
- 50-59
- 60-69
- 70+

### 11. What is your gender?

- Female
- Male

### 12. What is your ethnicity? (Please select all that apply.)

- American Indian or Alaskan Native
- Asian or Pacific Islander
- Black or African American
- Hispanic or Latino
- White / Caucasian
- Prefer not to answer

## General Information About Your Practice

The following questions ask more details about your practice.

### 13. What is your type of practice?

- Nephrology
- General Internal Medicine
- Family Practice

### 14. What is your health care organization?

- Academic practice
- Government facility-based practice
- Hospital-based practice
- Multi-specialty practice
- Private group practice
- Solo practice

### 15. How many years have passed since you completed your training?

- 0-5 years
- 6-10 years
- 11-15 years
- 16-20 years
- 21-25 years
- 26+ years

### 16. How many patients with CKD (including ESRD) did you see last week?

- 0-15
- 16-30
- 31-45
- 46-60
- >60

## Optional: E-mail address

**17. Thank you for completing the survey! Please enter your e-mail address in the space below to receive an \$25 Amazon.com e-gift code. Otherwise, leave it blank and click "Done" to exit the survey.**