

CANSW
NEPHROLOGY SOCIAL WORK STANDARDS

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STANDARD I - KNOWLEDGE BASE

Nephrology Social Workers, as members of a specialized treatment team, must have knowledge of End Stage Renal Disease.

Interpretation

Social Workers providing service in a Nephrology setting have an obligation to have basic knowledge relevant to the disease. This should include causes, treatment modalities, the psycho-social implications of chronic disease, ethical concerns, and appropriate social work interventions.

STANDARD II - COLLABORATION

Nephrology Social Workers, as members of the health care team, shall collaborate with all relevant professional disciplines in the planning and provision of services to End Stage Renal Disease patients.

Interpretation

The multidimensional needs of End Stage Renal Disease patients/families can best be met by an interdisciplinary team approach. This approach allows for the information sharing that is essential in providing comprehensive, co-ordinated and cost effective services to these patients.

STANDARD III - QUALIFICATIONS

Social Work services in Nephrology settings shall be provided by a social worker with a social work degree from a School of Social Work accredited or recognized by the Canadian Association of Schools of Social Work.

Interpretation

A Social Work degree from an approved School of Social Work is a pre-requisite for practice in Nephrology. This standard reflects the belief that only a qualified social worker can provide a full range of social work services.

STANDARD IV - COMMUNITY/ADVOCACY

Nephrology Social Workers shall promote and facilitate the use of, existing community resources for all Nephrology patients/families and advocate for new resources when indicated.

Interpretation

End Stage Renal Disease patients may require services from a variety of community agencies as they cope with social, emotional, financial and vocational changes in their lives. The Nephrology Social Worker must be knowledgeable about available community resources and enable all patients to access these resources in a timely and efficient manner. When there are gaps in services, the Nephrology Social Worker shall advocate on behalf of patients and their families.

STANDARD V - PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

All Nephrology Social Workers have an obligation to pursue appropriate and necessary professional development to ensure an adequate skill level in theory and practise.

Interpretation

All Nephrology Social Workers will partake in relevant continuing education programs available to them in order to maintain a level of expertise, knowledge and skills required.

STANDARD VI - SERVICES TO PATIENT/FAMILY SYSTEM

All End Stage Renal Disease patients/families are entitled to comprehensive Social Work services as part of their overall treatment program.

Interpretation

Since End Stage Renal Disease profoundly and extensively affects the lives of patients/families, Social Work services must be available. The Social Work services shall include a complete psycho-social assessment, clinical interventions and follow-up and referral services to patients/families.