

Chronic kidney disease in adults

UK guidelines for identification, management and referral

Chronic kidney disease (CKD) is generally thought to be rare and complex but in fact in the early stage is common and easy to manage. Only a small proportion of patients go on to develop progressive kidney failure with its attendant complications. These guidelines have therefore been developed to promote the optimal management of patients with CKD within the NHS by general physicians and general practitioners. They also include clear guidance on the identification of patients who need to be referred to specialist services.

Late referral of patients with established renal failure is associated with significant excess cost and poor clinical outcome compared to referral early enough to allow planning in advance for dialysis treatment or kidney transplantation. Early identification of patients with CKD and of those at risk of progressive CKD is therefore imperative to improve outcomes and ensure appropriate referral of those needing specialist care. Most patients with early CKD, however, do not develop progressive CKD, but are at increased risk of cardiovascular disease and death, and require optimised management of risk factors for these complications in primary care.

These fully evidence-based guidelines are endorsed by the National Service Framework for Renal Services. As well as providing a comprehensive guide to diagnosis and management of patients with CKD for general practitioners and general physicians, they will also be relevant to nephrologists, diabetologists, urologists, and others who might be involved in the care of patients with early CKD.

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- Measurement of excretory kidney function
- Detection of proteinuria
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Developed by the Joint Specialty Committee on Renal Medicine of the Royal College of Physicians of London and the Renal Association.

With representatives from the Royal College of General Practitioners, the Association for Clinical Biochemistry, the Society for District General Hospital Nephrologists, the British Geriatric Society, the Professional Advisory Council of Diabetes UK and the National Kidney Federation

Also available

Identification, management and referral of adults with chronic kidney disease: guidelines for general physicians and general practitioners Concise Guidance to Good Practice Series, No 5

For quick reference, the concise guide sets out the key recommendations of the full guidelines in a clear, accessible format, together with information on classification and referral of patients. It is designed to enable general physicians and general practitioners to make rapid, informed decisions about the identification and management of CKD, based on up-to-date evidence.

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