

Social Work Resources and Support for Dialysis Patients

Ann Steele LICSW

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Introduction

- State and Federal regulations mandate a Licensed Social Worker be involved in each dialysis patients care
 - Pre admission
 - Building relationships
 - Facilitating insurance
 - Transportation
 - KDQOL
 - Address Goals of Care
 - Facilitate compliance with treatments
 - Educate on treatment options
 - Address psychosocial needs

Preadmission

- Meet with patient and family
- Tour of unit
- Discussion of needs
- Meet patient “where patient is at”
- Introduce staff members

Relationship Building

- Most important concern
- Builds trust

Insurance Issues

- Medicare and MassHealth
- Commercial Insurance
- American Kidney Foudation

Transportation

- Ongoing concern
- Dialysis units do not pay for transportation
- The Ride and State funded programs are available

KDQOL

- Given to patient in first month and then again yearly to assess their needs

Address goals of care

- Advance Directives
- Health Care Proxy

Compliance with treatment

- Most important concern
- The More Dialysis the More Healthy the Patient
- Should never miss a Treatment

Educate on Treatment Options

- MD has already done this
- Reinforce and clarify if necessary
- Encourage patients to join groups
- Encourage patients to meet with other patients using same modality

Address psychosocial needs

- Each patient is unique and has different medical, social and psychological concerns.
- Team work with each staff member is vital
- Focus on the individual characteristics of each patient