

Policy Title: Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) Screening and Management Policy

Effective Date: [Insert Date]

Review Date: [Insert Date]

Policy Owner: [Insert Name/Title]

Approved By: [Insert Name/Title]

Purpose:

To establish a standardized approach for the early detection, diagnosis, and management of Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) in high-risk patients within our primary care practice. This policy ensures adherence to evidence-based guidelines and promotes comprehensive care coordination.

Scope:

This policy applies to all healthcare providers, medical assistants, nursing staff, and care management teams involved in the care of patients at [Practice Name].

Policy

1. Screening and Early Detection:

- **Eligible Patients:**
 - Screen all patients aged 18 years and older with risk factors for CKD, including diabetes, hypertension, cardiovascular disease, or a family history of kidney disease.
- **Screening Tests:**
 - Perform annual estimated Glomerular Filtration Rate (eGFR) and urine Albumin-Creatinine Ratio (uACR) tests for eligible patients.
- **Best Practice Alerts (BPAs):**
 - Enable BPAs in the Electronic Medical Record (EMR) system to notify providers of patients due for CKD screening.
- **Classification and Diagnosis:**
 - CKD diagnosis is defined as abnormalities of kidney structure or function, present for a minimum of 3 months, with implications for health. This may include GFR <60 ml/min per 1.73 m² or ACR >30 mg/g.
 - Classify CKD based on cause, eGFR, and Albuminuria (see CKD heat map for guidance).

2. Patient Education:

- Provide all patients undergoing CKD screening with educational materials outlining the importance of kidney health, the role of early detection, and the implications of CKD and the importance of slowing the progression of disease.
- Utilize resources from the National Kidney Foundation (NKF) and other reputable sources for patient education.

3. Clinical Assessment and Monitoring:

- **Lab Monitoring:**
 - Follow the [NKF/KDIGO guidelines](#) frequency of monitoring.
- **Documentation:**
 - Document all test results, diagnoses, patient education, and follow-up care plans in the EMR.

- **Team Huddles:**
 - Conduct daily team huddles to discuss patients with CKD or those at high risk, reviewing their care plans and upcoming appointments. If available, utilize a CKD registry for population health management.
- 4. **Management and Referral:**
 - **Interdisciplinary Care:**
 - Involve dietitians, pharmacists, and care coordinators in the management and education of CKD patients, particularly those with complex needs.
 - **Medication Management:**
 - Follow [NKF/KDIGO guidelines](#) on medication management in order ensure patient safety, slow disease progression, manage complications, and reduce the risk of cardiovascular disease.
 - **Referral to Specialists:**
 - Refer patients with CKD stage 4 or higher, uACR result over 300 mg/g, or those with rapid progression of CKD, or hereditary or unknown cause to a nephrologist for specialized care.
 - Refer patients who could benefit from chronic disease self-management skills to the National Kidney Foundation of Michigan's programs such as [Diabetes PATH or Kidney PATH](#). Contact 800-482-1455.
 - **Standing Orders:**
 - Implement standing orders for routine CKD-related lab tests to streamline patient care and reduce missed opportunities.
- 5. **Follow-Up and Patient Engagement:**
 - Schedule regular follow-up visits for CKD patients, ensuring consistent monitoring and timely intervention.
 - Encourage patient participation in lifestyle modification and self-management programs, providing resources and support as needed.
- 6. **Quality Improvement:**
 - Regularly review CKD screening rates, patient outcomes, and adherence to this policy as part of the clinic's Quality Improvement (QI) initiatives.
 - Adjust protocols and training based on QI findings to continuously enhance CKD care.

References:

- National Kidney Foundation (NKF) Clinical Practice Guidelines.
- Kidney Disease: Improving Global Outcomes (KDIGO) Guidelines.
- National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) CKD Management Guidelines.