



FAMILY “TOOLS OF ENGAGEMENT” BEST PRACTICE 3

BEST PRACTICE 3

Support and provide appropriate treatment to families, friends, and caregivers who are dealing with psychosocial issues related to the family member’s condition, the changing role of families, and the impact on children.

HOW DO YOU ACHIEVE THIS BEST PRACTICE?

- 1) Use a semi-structured interview to gain insight into the needs of families, friends, and/or caregivers as they deal with having a loved one who is experiencing CKD and requires dialysis to survive.
 - a) Before engaging in dialogue, the health care professional should identify the role of the person providing the information. The following questions can guide an effective conversation:
 - i) Tell me about your relationship with (family member, friend, or caregiver)?
 - ii) Tell me how you feel about your (family member, friend or caregiver) undergoing dialysis?
 - iii) How has this affected your lifestyle? Your relationship? Your role?
 - iv) What is “most important” to you right now?
 - v) What are some of your future hopes and dreams for you and your (family member, friend, or caregiver)?
 - b) If interviewing someone in a caregiver role, examine caregiver strain/stress and offer suggestions to reduce the strain. Also assess any need for additional support (how much and by whom).
- 2) Educate an interdisciplinary care team in understanding psychosocial issues in families (family dynamics, family’s changing role) and how they may impact the patient’s treatment.
- 3) Educate families about psychosocial issues and the impact on themselves and the patient.
- 4) Direct families to resources for addressing family psychosocial issues, including support groups, peers support, community resources, and other available programs and services.
- 5) Provide age-appropriate resources to help children deal with dialysis treatments, psychological needs, and relationships with their peers in treatment, as well as outside of the treatment area. Provide them with questions that they should ask the provider, nutritionist, nurses, and social worker.

FAMILY ENGAGEMENT BEST PRACTICE 3: TOOLS AND RESOURCES

Web-Based Tools and Resources

Caregivers: Who Loves Ya, Baby?	Renal Support Network - Play Now
Communication Prescription for the Renal Care Professional	Renal Support Network www.rsnhope.org/resources/comm_prescrip.php Also available for purchase on DVD for \$49.95 plus S&H (download form from link).
Coping Effectively: A Guide for Patients and their Families	National Kidney Foundation http://www.kidney.org/atoz/pdf/coping.pdf To order by telephone, call 800-622-9010
Dialysis Patient Citizens on Facebook (account required)	http://www.facebook.com/pages/Dialysis-Patient-Citizens/21395843375?ref=ts
Family Ties (podcast)	Renal Support Network http://rsnhope.org/programs/kidneytalkshows/Martinlow_Spalding/index.php
Living Well with Kidney Disease: A Resource for Patients and Their Families	National Kidney Foundation http://www.kidney.org/site/504/book_order.cfm?ch=504 . To order by telephone, call 800-747-5527
Managing Stress: What Kidney Patients, Family Members, and Caregivers Need to Know	Renal Support Network http://www.kidneytimes.com/article.php?id=20071015192333
People Like Us on Facebook (account required)	National Kidney Foundation http://www.facebook.com/home.php?#!/group.php?gid=417996565113
People Like Us on Twitter	National Kidney Foundation http://twitter.com/NKFPeopleLikeUs
The Real Miracle of Family	Renal Support Network http://www.kidneytimes.com/article.php?id=20070703190330
Renal Acronym List	http://www.kidneytimes.com/article.php?id=20070220133542
Renal Support Network Facebook Page (account required)	http://www.facebook.com/pages/Renal-Support-Network/174580037735?ref=ts
Support Group Guidebook	Association of Kidney Patients (AAKP) http://www.aakp.org/outreach/development.cfm

Printed Tools and Resources

Family Focus	National Kidney Foundation - To order by telephone, call 800-622-9010
Renal Support Network HOPEline	Call 800-579-1970; available Monday thru Friday 10AM to 8PM (Pacific Time)
Supporting Literature	
Gee C, et al. Couples coping in response to kidney disease: a developmental perspective. <i>Semin Dial.</i> 2005 18 (2): 103-8. http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/15771653	

All links last accessed on November 28, 2010