

Shared Goals of Care Conversations in a Community Dialysis Unit



Shared goals of care conversations are collaborative discussions between patients and clinicians. Patients share their values, preferences, and care goals, while clinicians provide information about care options that align with those wishes. This includes planning for situations where a patient's care needs may exceed the services available within a community dialysis unit.



What are shared goals of care conversations?



It is the health authority's responsibility to ensure adequate support and resources are available to enable shared goals of care discussions.



Accessible, culturally safe, trauma-informed goals of care discussions promote equitable, inclusive, person- and family-centred care.



Shared goals of care should be established and documented before a patient is transferred to a community dialysis unit.



The social work team is available whether they are on-site or not and should be engaged during these discussions.



Shared goals of care should be revisited after a medical incident or change in functioning.

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Shared goals of care discussion principles:



Begin early in the patient's kidney journey and can be initiated by the patient or clinician.



May include other members of the multidisciplinary teams involved in the patient's care.



The patient can invite who they wish to attend the discussion.



Foster mutual understanding of clinical considerations and what matters most to the patient.



Documentation is clear and comprehensive, readily accessible to all clinicians involved in the patient's care.