



NKDEP and Fistula First Partner to Encourage Early AV Fistula Placement

In partnership with CMS' Fistula First Breakthrough Initiative, the National Kidney Disease Education Program (NKDEP) has produced a series of videos to help providers talk with patients about arteriovenous (AV) fistula placement, the best option for vascular access during hemodialysis treatment. These eight short video clips address some of the most common patient questions providers may receive about AV fistula placement, such as the need for placing an AV fistula before hemodialysis and why it is the preferred option. The videos are meant to promote conversation about dialysis preparation earlier in the chronic kidney disease (CKD) process. They can be viewed on NKDEP's website at www.nkdep.nih.gov/professionals/providereducation/index.htm, and are part of larger video series demonstrating how providers can respond to patient questions related to CKD.

Facilitating Provider Collaboration during Nephrology Referral

To help facilitate the coordination of patient care, NKDEP has developed an interactive nephrology referral form that captures critical patient information for primary care providers to share with the nephrologist when referring. The PDF form allows the provider to enter key clinical information related to diabetes status and complications; urine albumin, eGFR, and blood pressure test results; family history; current medications; and more. The form also includes brief definitions and justifications for including specific data. It can be downloaded, saved to a computer for data entry, and printed or shared electronically with the nephrologist. To view or download the referral form, visit www.nkdep.nih.gov/professionals/nephrologyreferralform.

Educating Parents on CKD Risk in Children

To promote increased early detection of CKD in children, NKDEP has developed two new materials that educate parents about risk factors and the importance of screening children who are at risk. The "Is My Child at Risk?" poster outlines the primary risk factors for pediatric CKD and is intended for display in a health care setting. An accompanying brochure for parents further explains these risk factors, as well as testing recommendations and treatment options. Both materials are available to print and order on NKDEP's Resources page at www.nkdep.nih.gov/resources/index.htm. To view the materials, narrow your search to Pediatrics in the "For the Clinic" tab.

KICC Meeting Summary Report Now Available

The National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK) and NKDEP hosted the semiannual Kidney Interagency Coordinating Committee (KICC) meeting on June 18, 2010 in Bethesda, MD. Representatives from the Veterans Health Administration (VA) and the Department of Defense (DoD) presented on various CKD-related activities, including programs to improve CKD care for veterans and the development of a VA/DoD CKD toolkit, which will include NKDEP materials. The meeting summary report is now available at www.nkdep.nih.gov/about/kicc/kicc-meetings.htm.

CDC Utilizes Interagency Process to Develop a CKD Fact Sheet

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has developed a "National CKD Fact Sheet" that provides definitive information about the burden and consequences of CKD in the U.S. Modeled after CDC's fact sheet on diabetes, the two-page resource was developed with the help of many key partners, including KICC members and patient advocacy groups. Addressing different needs and target audiences, the factsheet is easy for partners to

use and customize. It will be updated regularly, and is available on CDC's website at:
www.cdc.gov/diabetes/pubs/factsheets/kidney.htm.

Reminder: Funding Opportunity on Translating CKD Research into Improved Clinical Outcomes

Remember to check out the recently released funding initiative titled "Planning Grants for Translating Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) Research into Improved Clinical Outcomes (R34)." The RFA encourages NIH Clinical Trial Planning Grant (R34) applications from institutions/organizations to test the effectiveness of interventions for the prevention, treatment, and management of CKD that are likely to be adopted and sustained in a range of health care settings and in individuals and communities at highest risk.

NIDDK encourages individuals and organizations to promote and disseminate funding information in related newsletters, publications, and/or on organizational websites. A link to the RFA is available at: grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-DK-10-011.html and on the NIDDK website at: www2.niddk.nih.gov/Research/ScientificAreas/Kidney/ in the right-hand column under "Highlighted Opportunities in Kidney Diseases Research."

NIH Funding Opportunity: NIH Early Independence Award Program

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) Common Fund announces the highly selective NIH Director's Early Independence Award Program to provide a mechanism for exceptional, early career scientists who are U.S. citizens or permanent residents to omit traditional post-doctoral training and move into independent academic positions at U.S. institutions directly upon completion of their graduate degrees (Ph.D., M.D., or equivalent). The NIH expects to issue 10 awards through this program in fall 2011.

You may want to read "Scientists Need a Shorter Path to Research Freedom," NIH Director Francis Collins' commentary explaining why the NIH is launching a bid to help some doctoral students dramatically reduce the time required to start an independent career. *Nature*, Vol.467, 7 October 2010
www.nature.com/news/2010/101006/full/467635a.html

Early Independence Awards are targeted to exceptional junior investigators with the intellect, scientific creativity, drive, and maturity to flourish independently without the need for traditional post-doctoral training. Early Independence Award projects will receive up to \$250,000 in direct costs each year for up to five years. Junior scientists may identify a host institution and contact them directly to negotiate a position. Alternatively, institutions may actively recruit exceptional junior scientists to apply for these positions. In either case, the institution must be willing to nurture the investigator as an independent researcher including the provision of independent lab space. An institution may elect to host an applicant for this program with the commitment to a position being contingent upon receipt of the award. These awards will be very selective, and each institution may only submit two applications.

The deadline for submitting Early Independence Award applications is January 21, 2011. Letters of Intent are due December 21, 2010. See the instructions in the [RFA](#) (RFA-RM-10-19). Additional information, including Frequently Asked Questions about the Early Independence Investigators Award Program is available at: <http://commonfund.nih.gov/earlyindependence>. Send questions to earlyindependence@mail.nih.gov.

Upcoming Conferences

American Dietetic Association, Food & Nutrition Conference & Expo (Booth #2972), Boston, MA -- November 6-9, 2010

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