

New Funding Available to Improve Patient Experience at Ontario's 26 Regional Chronic Kidney Disease Programs

Coordinators will help standardize excellent care for all

TORONTO, ON (October 25, 2011) – New funding is now available from the [Ontario Renal Network](#) (ORN) provincial office for the network's 26 regional chronic kidney disease ([CKD](#)) programs.

Approximately \$3 million in new funding per year will be distributed by the ORN to the regional CKD programs, to support staffing expenses associated with coordinating CKD patient journeys.

The funding responds to needs identified by the regional CKD programs for coordinating and supporting patient journeys, to improve patient experiences and health outcomes. The initiatives take aim at raising the number of people who [dialyze independently](#), and improving [vascular access](#) for hemodialysis patients.

"CKD is such an overwhelming disease that we, as nephrologists, have always relied heavily on multidisciplinary collaboration to care for our patients," says Dr. Judith Miller, Provincial Medical Director, ORN. "The funding ORN is providing facilitates this model of care. I am sure it will prove to be beneficial in promoting best practice in independent dialysis and vascular access."

Vascular access coordination involves things like ensuring patients are assessed for best vascular access; managing operating room time for vascular access surgery, and ensuring the patency of an existing vascular access.

Independent dialysis coordination includes things like ensuring patients are assessed for independent dialysis; coordinating home visits to ensure suitability for independent dialysis, and collecting data on outcomes.

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“ORN is pleased to support this important initiative,” says Helen Angus, VP, ORN. “We expect it to make a real difference, for patients and the CKD system.”

Funding for coordinators will be available to Ontario’s CKD programs for the remainder of fiscal 2011-12, and then annually going forward. Allocations have been based on each program’s numbers of current and forecasted dialysis patients.

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