

End of Life Care

(Excerpt from Network 5 Kidney End-of-Life Coalition Website)

“There are over 320,000 people receiving dialysis therapy in the United States and over 45% are over the age of 60. Despite many dialysis patients having significant co-morbid conditions that affect their care, they have a high quality of life and can be expected to enjoy extra years of life afforded by dialysis. However, this is not true for all patients. About 20% of patients withdraw from dialysis prior to death, and many die from heart disease, infections, and other causes while continuing dialysis. For these patients, end-of-life care is an important part of their treatment plan.”

Renal Physicians Association

Share Decision-Making in the Appropriate Initiation of and Withdrawal from Dialysis – Clinical Practice Guideline

National Kidney Foundation

When Stopping Dialysis Treatment is Your Choice – A Guide for Patients and their Families

Center to Advance Palliative Care

What Should You Know About Palliative Care?

Renal Support Network

Hopeline Postcard

Coalition for Compassionate Care of California

Advance Health Care Directive Fact Sheet for Consumers

POLST: Frequently Asked Questions for Consumers

Facing Serious Illness: Making Your Wishes Known (Español)

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services

Medicare Hospice Benefits