



Dear Healthcare Provider,

The American Nephrology Nurses Association (ANNA) would like to thank you for your hard work and diligence during this unprecedented time. This letter is to introduce you to a new kidney health education tool titled “COVID-19 and Your Kidney Health.”

This tool was developed based on evidence that COVID-19 is strongly associated with community-acquired acute kidney injury (CA-AKI) and hospital-acquired acute kidney injury (HA-AKI).

- A study conducted in an inner-city hospital system in an underserved area revealed 49.3% of individuals with COVID-19 also had AKI. Of those, 72% were found to have AKI indicators upon hospital admission with 28% developing AKI during hospitalization (Pelayo et al., 2020).
- The presence of AKI is associated with an increased risk of mortality (Fu et al. 2020; Trabulus et al., 2020). A systematic review and meta-analysis (Yang et al., 2020) found a high incidence of abnormal kidney function in individuals with COVID-19. This analysis revealed an AKI incidence of 52.9% in those who did not survive the disease, compared to a 0.7% incidence in those who survived COVID-19.
- Risk factors for AKI with COVID-19 include diabetes mellitus, hypertension, older age, cardiovascular disease, chronic kidney disease, need for vasopressor medications and ventilation, and male gender (Fu et al., 2020; Hirsch et al., 2020). Additionally, a history of heart failure has been noted to be an independent predictor for AKI with COVID-19 (Pelayo et al., 2020).

Increasing public awareness regarding the connection between COVID-19 and kidney health, as well as the risks and symptoms of AKI, has the potential to impact the incidence and severity of CA-AKI and HA-AKI, especially for those at high risk who experience health disparities and/or reside in underserved communities.

We invite you to consider sharing this important information with your patient population. Download the flyer at www.annanurse.org/covidflyer.

Sincerely,

Lillian A. Pryor, MSN, RN, CNN
ANNA 2020-21 President