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**An Interdisciplinary Approach to Caring for the Dialysis Patient**

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Strong collaboration and ongoing communication between the interdisciplinary team members is of special significance to providing palliative care. The team must have a good understanding of their roles and offer a shared commitment to well coordinated care that recognizes the ethical, psychosocial and spiritual issues related to starting, withholding and stopping dialysis. The members of the team include the nephrologist (initiates and coordinates palliative management), the nurse (to work collaboratively with the physician, patient and team), the social worker (to assess and implement supportive networks) and pastoral care (to provide spiritual meaning/communication). The combined efforts of the interdisciplinary team will assist the dialysis patient and family to maintain dignity and achieve personal fulfillment.

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