

STANDARDS OF NEPHROLOGY NURSING PRACTICE

The standards of nephrology nursing practice describe a competent level of nursing care as demonstrated by the application of the nursing process. The standards may be used as the standard of care for the nephrology practitioner with the understanding that they are context dependent.

Standard

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Assessment

The nephrology registered nurse collects pertinent data and information relative to the healthcare consumer's health or the situation.

Competencies

The nephrology registered nurse:

- Adheres to applicable federal, state, and local regulations for assessment criteria and frequency for healthcare consumers undergoing kidney replacement therapies (KRTs).
- Collects pertinent data including, but not limited to, demographics, social determinants of health, health disparities, and physical, functional, psychosocial, emotional, cognitive, sexual, cultural, age-related, environmental, spiritual/transpersonal, and economic assessments in a systematic, ongoing process with compassion and respect for the inherent dignity, worth, and unique attributes of the patient with kidney disease.
- Recognizes the importance of the assessment parameters identified by the World Health Organization (WHO), Healthy People 2020, or other organizations that influence nephrology nursing practice.
- Integrates knowledge from global and environmental factors into the assessment process.
- Elicits the healthcare consumer values, preferences, expressed and unexpressed needs, and knowledge of the healthcare situation.
- Engages the healthcare consumer and other interdisciplinary team members in holistic, culturally sensitive data collection.

- Identifies barriers to effective communication based on psychosocial, literacy, financial, and cultural considerations.
- Recognizes impact of one's own personal attitudes, values, and beliefs on the assessment process.
- Assesses the impact of family dynamics on health and wellness.
- Prioritizes data collection based on the healthcare consumer's immediate condition or the anticipated needs of the healthcare consumer or situation.
- Uses evidence-based assessment techniques, instruments, tools, available data, information, and knowledge relevant to the situation to identify patterns and variances.
- Applies ethical, legal, and privacy guidelines and policies to the collection, maintenance, use, and dissemination of data and information.
- Recognizes the healthcare consumer as the authority on their own health by honoring their care preferences.
- Documents relevant data accurately, timely, and in a manner accessible to the interdisciplinary team.

Additional competencies for the graduate-level prepared registered nurse specializing in nephrology

In addition to the competencies of the nephrology registered nurse, the graduate-level prepared registered nurse specializing in nephrology:

- Evaluates risks and potential risks of kidney disease in individuals, families, and the community.
- Synthesizes the results and information leading to clinical understanding.
- Assesses the effect of interactions among individuals, family, community, and social systems on health and illness.

Additional competencies for the advanced practice registered nurse specializing in nephrology

In addition to the competencies of the registered nurse and graduate-level prepared registered nurse specializing in nephrology, the advanced practice registered nurse specializing in nephrology:

- Initiates diagnostic tests and procedures relevant to the healthcare consumer's current status.
- Uses advanced assessment, knowledge, and skills to maintain, enhance, or improve health conditions.