



Position Statement

Patient and Family Engagement

Individuals with kidney disease face important choices regarding their care, dialysis options, and the role they play in understanding and making their care most effective. These choices are very personal and have a significant influence on their quality of life. Patient engagement is a key element and even a necessary condition for the achievement of patient-centered care. By actively participating in their care, patients are better equipped to make choices that align with their goals, preferences, and values, ultimately leading to more effective and meaningful healthcare experiences (Marzban et al, 2022). Patient engagement is the active involvement of individuals in their own care, as well as others they designate to engage on their behalf, with the goal to empower them to make competent, informed decisions about their health and healthcare and take action to support those decisions (Hoy et al., 2021).

The American Nephrology Nurses Association (ANNA) believes in the commitment of nurses to assist individuals with kidney disease to achieve an optimum level of functioning. As a member of the healthcare team, the nephrology nurse has a critical role in providing education, training, and support to encourage individuals with kidney disease to make informed decisions and remain or become engaged participants in their own care.

It is the position of ANNA that:

- Patient engagement is an essential component of empowering individuals with kidney disease to become effective partners in managing of their health care.
- Self-advocacy, self-management, and self-care promote positive health outcomes and improved quality of life.
- Each comprehensive, individualized plan of care must include education and training for patients and when appropriate, their families, for success in self-management, self-care, and adaptation to changes in health status.
- Care partners should be encouraged and supported throughout the care journey. Care partners may include immediate family members and/or designated significant other/s as identified by the individual. Collaboration with and inclusion of the patient/care partner in all care decisions, can enhance communication within the healthcare system, improve quality of care, and improve patient satisfaction.
- Individuals must be provided with the education necessary to ensure they have the opportunity to participate in self-care.
 - Individuals with chronic kidney disease deserve the information necessary to focus on disease prevention and when necessary adequate preparation for kidney replacement therapies.
 - Individuals with end stage kidney disease deserve the information necessary to engage in their own treatment decisions and select the modality that best meets their lifestyle.
 - Reevaluation of the individualized care plan needs to occur with any changes in health status, life events, or change in preferences to ensure the plan continues to meet the needs of the individual.

References

Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality. Guide to Patient and Family Engagement in Hospital Quality and Safety. Retrieved on July 13, 2026 from [Guide to Patient and Family Engagement in Hospital Quality and Safety | Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality \(ahrq.gov\)](https://www.ahrq.gov/patient-family-engagement).

Hoy, L., Hoy, S., Fitall, E., Hall, K. K., & Hough, K. R. (2021, May 10). Meaningful measurement in patient and family engagement. <https://psnet.ahrq.gov/perspective/meaningful-measurement-patient-and-family-engagement>

Marzban, S., Najafi, M., Agolli, A., & Ashrafi, E. (2022). Impact of patient engagement on Healthcare Quality: A scoping review. *Journal of Patient Experience*, 9. <https://doi.org/10.1177/23743735221125439>

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