

## **SAND abstract No. 114 from the BEACH program 2007–08**

### **Subject: Chronic kidney disease among general practice patients**

**Organisation supporting this study:** Abbott Australasia Pty Ltd

**Issues:** The proportion of patients attending general practice who have undergone a kidney function test in the previous 12 months; prevalence of chronic kidney disease among patients attending general practice; the stage of kidney disease for these patients; the comorbidities and risk factors of patients with chronic kidney disease; the management of chronic kidney disease for patients attending general practice.

**Sample:** 5,924 respondents from 195 GPs; data collection period: 01/05/2007 – 04/06/2007 and 25/09/2007 – 29/10/2007.

**Method:** Detailed in the paper entitled 'SAND Method 2007-08' on this website: <[www.fmrc.org.au/publications/SAND\\_abstracts.htm](http://www.fmrc.org.au/publications/SAND_abstracts.htm)>. Stages of disease were defined according to National Kidney Foundation Guidelines.

### **Summary of results**

The age-sex distribution of the sample reflected that of all BEACH participants. Of the 5,924 respondents, 2,960 (50.0%, 95% CI: 46.2–55.1) had had a kidney function test in the previous 12 months, 31.5% ( $n=1,867$ ) a glomerular function test, 45.6% ( $n=2,699$ ) a serum creatinine test, and 3.7% ( $n=219$ ) another kidney function test. Age-specific test rates showed that the likelihood of being tested increased significantly with patient age, with 85.4% of patients aged 75 years and over having been tested. Sex-specific rates showed no significant difference between males and females in the proportion tested.

Of the 5,729 patients for whom a response was recorded, 332 (5.8%, 95% CI: 4.8–6.8) had been diagnosed with chronic renal failure/chronic kidney disease (CRF/CKD). Of the 332, 73.8% had been diagnosed by a GP and 26.2% by a specialist. While there was no difference in the diagnosed prevalence between males and females, the age-specific rate showed that 24.1% (95% CI: 20.5–27.7) of patients aged 75 years and over had diagnosed CRF/CKD.

Of the 322 diagnosed patients with a response about comorbidities, 75.8% had hypertension, 46.3% had dyslipidaemia, 34.2% had diabetes, 21.1% had proteinuria, 10.9% had anaemia and 1.6% had hyperparathyroidism. Of patients with CRF/CKD 6.8% were current smokers, and 9.3% had none of the listed conditions. Stage of disease was provided for 328 of the 332 diagnosed patients. The majority (55.8%) were at Stage 3. For patients aged 75 years and over 63.8% were at Stage 3, while only 1.1% of patients in this age group were at Stage 1 of the disease.

Management method responses were provided for 326 (98.2%) CRF/CKD patients. Half (51.1%) were being managed by a GP only, more than one-third (38.7%) by a GP and specialist, and 10.2% by a specialist only. Of the 222 respondents to questions about the type of management, 67.1% ( $n=149$ ) were managed by diet; 14.4% ( $n=32$ ) by Vitamin D supplements; and 56.3% ( $n=125$ ) were managed with other methods, most commonly the management of risk factors and other diseases including: cardiovascular problems, diabetes, dyslipidaemia or anaemia. Less frequent managements were haemopoietic agents, dialysis, advice about fluids, and avoidance of non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs.

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# PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

The shaded section of the following forms asks questions about **CHRONIC RENAL FAILURE** or **CHRONIC KIDNEY DISEASE**.  
 You may tear out this page as a guide to completing the following section of forms.

## INSTRUCTIONS

Ask **ALL** of the **next 30 PATIENTS** the following questions in the **order** in which the patients are seen.

Please **DO NOT** select patients to suit the topic being investigated.

## Assessment of renal function

Please use the tick boxes to advise whether this patient has had their **kidney function** tested in the past 12 months, and with **what test/s**. Please tick as many as apply.

## Risk factors and comorbidities

Please advise whether the patient **also has** any of the **listed risk factors or conditions**. Tick as many as apply.

If the patient has **none** of the listed risk factors or conditions please tick the box labelled '**none of the above**'.

## Perception of management

We are trying to **gauge whether** the CRF / CKD is being **actively managed in its own right**, rather than as a consideration in the management of other conditions.

Please advise whether the CRF / CKD is being managed by a **GP only**, by a **specialist only**, or by a **GP in conjunction with a specialist**.

If '**yes**' please **continue** to the final question.

If the CRF / CKD is **not** being actively managed, please **end the questions here**.

## Diagnosis

Please advise whether the patient has been **diagnosed with Chronic Renal Failure (CRF) or Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD)**, either today or prior to today's consultation. Also advise whether the diagnosis was made **by you or another GP**, or **by a specialist**.

If the patient has never been diagnosed with CRF or CKD **please end the questions here**.

## Stage of disease\*

If the patient has been diagnosed with CRF or CKD, please advise what **stage of the disease** currently applies to this patient.

If you **do not know** (e.g if test results are not available) please tick the box labelled '**don't know**'.

\*Stages classified as per National Kidney Foundation Guidelines Part 4 - 'Definition and Stages of Chronic Kidney Disease'.

## Management of CRF / CKD

If '**yes**' please advise **how** the patient's CRF / CKD is being managed. Please tick all options that apply

**In the past 12 months has this patient had their kidney function assessed?**  
(tick all that apply)

- Yes - glomerular filtration test
- Yes - serum creatinine test
- Yes - other \_\_\_\_\_  
(please specify)
- No
- Don't know

**Please continue →**

**Has the patient been diagnosed with Chronic Renal Failure (CRF) or Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD), today or prior to this encounter?**

- Yes - by you or another GP
- Yes - by a specialist
- No → **end questions here**

**If 'yes' does the patient have:**  
(tick all that apply)

- Diabetes
- Hypertension
- Proteinuria
- Dyslipidaemia
- Hyperparathyroidism
- Anaemia
- Current smoker
- None of the above

**At what stage\* of CRF or CKD is the patient?**

- Stage 1 - GFR  $\geq$  90 ml/min
- Stage 2 - GFR 60 - 89 ml/min
- Stage 3 - GFR 30 - 59 ml/min
- Stage 4 - GFR 15 - 29 ml/min
- Stage 5 - GFR  $<$ 15 ml/min + dialysis
- Don't know

**Is this patient's CRF or CKD being actively managed in its own right?**

- Yes - by GP only
- Yes - by GP + Specialist
- Yes - by Specialist only
- No → **end questions**

**If Yes, how is the patient's CRF / CKD being managed?**  
(tick all that apply)

- Diet
- Vit D supplement
- Other

(please specify) BL92B