

Integrating Palliative Care into Our Dialysis Unit

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Home Based Palliative Care



Quote: from Clinical Liaison in Dialysis post PEPA placement

“I had never asked a patient if they would like to die at home”

Sally Gaylor – Registered Nurse, March 2013

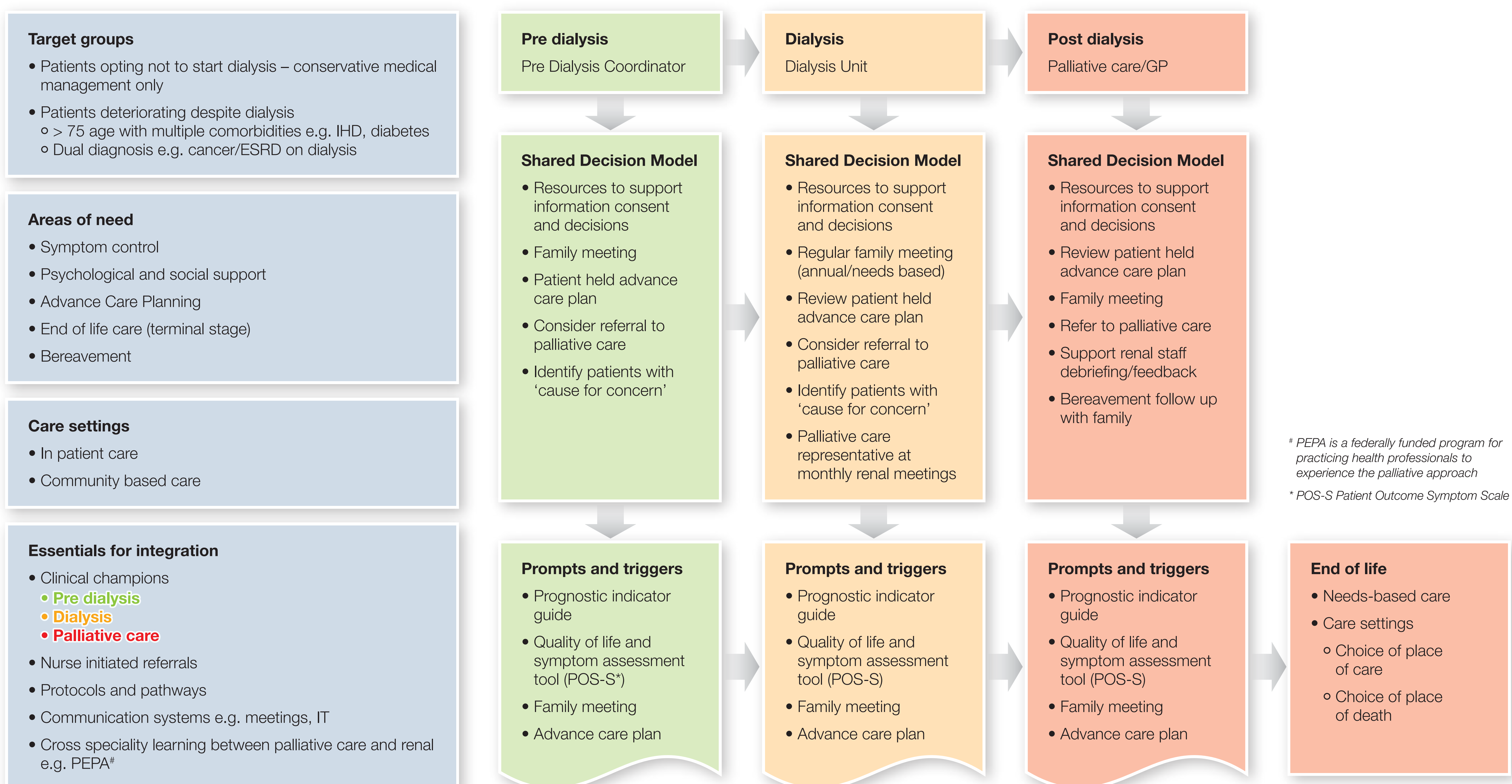
Background

- A referral was made to Palliative Care when the decision was made that a patient withdraw from treatment
- Only a short window of opportunity existed for quality palliative care
- Patients and families faced making end of life plans under stress and conflict

Aims

- To identify early the patients of concern rather than responding to a crisis situation
- To have a supportive pathway throughout the dialysis journey

Method Integrating Renal and Palliative Care: A framework for implementation



Reference: End of Life Care in Advanced Kidney Disease: A Framework for Implementation <http://passthrough.fw-notify.net/download/423980/http://www.kidneycare.nhs.uk/Library/EndofLifeCareFINAL.pdf> accessed September 2011

Outcomes

- Improved collaboration with palliative care team
- Earlier identification of patients of concern enabling a supportive pathway to be in place before the decision is made to withdraw from treatment, or to support those continuing to dialyse, despite deterioration
- Improved communication and increased confidence with conversations around the palliative needs of patients and families resulting in improved outcomes of End Of Life Care

Key Message

Renal nurses **CAN** make a difference to improve the quality of life and the end of life care of dialysis patients, families and carers, using existing resources