

Mental Health Resources

This month The Renal Network is focusing on Mental Health and the role it plays in treating kidney patients and their families. Patients with mental health issues are more likely to struggle with adapting to dialysis treatments, the renal diet, staff changes, and the changes in policies and procedures at the facility. The information below will add to your current knowledge of depression, anxiety, personality disorders, and substance abuse as well as provide ideas on how to assist these patients in adapting to dialysis.

The Renal Network

TRN's web site has links and articles on reducing patient-provider conflict, depression (screening, diagnosing and treatment tools) and articles on working with patients' compliance and adherence problems; <http://www.therenalnetwork.org/services/index.php>

The National Institute of Mental Health

This web site provides articles, educational and research information about most forms of mental illness along with the latest advances in diagnosing and treatment; <http://www.nimh.nih.gov/>

The Center for Medicare Advocacy

This link provides an overview of mental health services coverage under Medicare and includes information about inpatient and outpatient services and payment of psychotropic drugs.

http://www.medicareadvocacy.org/MentalHealth_09_05.28.CoverageIssues.htm

The National Kidney Foundation

This website references an article written by nephrology social worker , Megan Prescott, MSW; It is comprehensive in covering dialysis patients with depression, anxiety disorders, and personality disorders. It discusses both the aspects of diagnosing and treating these patients along with an excellent bibliography; <http://www.kidney.org/professionals/CNSW/pdf/NNI12-06-Depression.pdf>

Helpline.org

The helpline web site is comprehensive in providing information, articles, diagnostic tools on both mental health and medical illnesses (depression, alzheimer's illness, substance abuse, grief and loss and healthy lifestyles and much more; www.helpline.org/sitemap.htm.

