

Title: Preventive Care of ESRD Patients

Faculty Mentors:

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Background: Several studies suggest many patients with end-stage renal disease (ESRD) who are undergoing dialysis consider their nephrologist as their primary care provider (PCP), do not have a PCP other than their nephrologist, and expect all healthcare needs to be coordinated through the dialysis unit. While a few studies have suggested that nephrologists provide routine preventive care comparable with that reported by general internists, a survey of women on chronic dialysis found that issues related to women's health were less likely to be addressed by nephrologists than by general clinicians. More contemporary studies of this issue are needed.

Hypothesis: ESRD patients undergoing dialysis who have a PCP will have higher rates of preventive care services, such as vaccinations and age- and gender-appropriate cancer screening, compared to dialysis patients without a PCP.

Methods: The study proposal will be submitted to the UF Institutional Review Board to perform a cross-sectional survey of ESRD patients who undergo dialysis at UF outpatient dialysis centers and gather information about (a) whether the patient has a PCP, (b) patient's age, (c) patient's gender, (d) whether patient has had various recommended preventive measures, (e) patient's mode of dialysis (hemodialysis vs. peritoneal dialysis), and (f) duration of dialysis. The aim of the study is to determine the difference in the rates of appropriate use of preventive measures in dialysis patients with PCPs versus dialysis patients without PCPs.

Role of Medical Student: After consultation with the faculty mentor, the MSRP student will identify a research question (or questions) of interest to explore and conduct the surveys, data analysis, literature review, and preparation of at least one first-authored abstract and manuscript. Students may continue their collaboration throughout medical school.