

DEVELOPING A CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY SCIENCE WITHIN A NEPHROLOGY & TRANSPLANT TEAM: WHAT ARE THE NEEDS OF PATIENTS AND STAFF?

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PROBLEM:-End-stage renal disease is a chronic, life-threatening condition, and research consistently highlights the concomitant psychological morbidity among renal patients and their families. However, within the UK, there is a significant shortfall of Clinical Psychologists providing psychological services for patients with chronic renal disease. Moreover, where a Clinical Psychology Service does exist, there is no evidence-base to guide the delivery of the service.

PURPOSE:-In Cardiff, the recent appointment of a further 0.5 WTE Clinical Psychologist to the Nephrology & Transplant team has given rise to a full-time Clinical Psychology Service. Consequently, this research aims to identify how this service could be developed, guided by patient and staff needs.

DESIGN:- Patients' perceptions of their psychological needs were evaluated using both quantitative (questionnaires) and qualitative (interviews) methodologies. This design was replicated to evaluate staff perceptions regarding how Clinical Psychology could contribute to patient care, and to the team. The psychological health of patients was also assessed using psychometric measures.

FINDINGS:- It is hoped that questionnaire and interview data will provide guidance on developing the Clinical Psychology Service according to patient and staff needs and preferences, and will go some way to establishing an evidence-base for Clinical Psychologists working in this field.

CONCLUSION:- This study should offer direction on how to develop and deliver a Renal Clinical Psychology Service.

RELEVANCE:- Dissemination of these findings might provide the impetus for multi-centre research, replicating the study across the UK, resulting in a more evidence-based delivery of service nationwide. This research may further emphasise the importance and contribution of Clinical Psychology to the Nephrology and Transplant specialty.