

**Donal O'Donoghue**  
**National Clinical Director for Kidney Care, Department of Health**

**Launch of End of Life Care in Advanced Kidney Disease: A Framework for Implementation.**

*The End of Life Care for Advanced Kidney Disease – A Framework for Implementation* has been developed to enabling people to achieve high quality end of life care, rather than 'telling them what to do'. To achieve this, it explores the 'kidney specific' issues of end of life care focusing on patients opting for conservative kidney management and those "deteriorating despite" dialysis. The overarching aim is to help people with advanced kidney disease make informed choices about their supportive and end of life care. Key elements of this are the encouragement of **timely recognition** that the end of life phase is approaching; **sensitive communication** with patients and carers, **holistic assessment** which includes the needs of carers, **joined-up planning** and effective **multi-professional working across boundaries** linking kidney care, primary care and community care and palliative care services.

The Framework supports clinical leadership by providing recommendations on measures to optimise end of life care, for advanced kidney disease for all treatment modalities; evidence-based where possible. Where evidence is not yet available, it suggests where further research is needed, and draws on the collective experience of professionals and people with kidney disease.

Our responsibility is to "support people with established renal failure to live life as fully as possible and enable them to die with dignity in a setting of their own choice"