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National Policy for Chronic Kidney Disease: Taiwan

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Abstract

For more than a decade, Taiwan has held the world's highest incidence and prevalence rate of ESKD. Due to its tremendous health burden, we work on preventing CKD progression relatively earlier. In late 2006, the National Health Insurance Administration launched the Pre-ESRD Program for late CKD patients. Multidisciplinary care is the central core of this program, paid from national insurance according to the care team's practice and, later, performance. The coverage is nearly two-thirds for those entering long-term dialysis, leading to the improvement of declining GFR, advanced CKD mortality, and planned initiation of dialysis. However, the overall incident rate of ESKD in Taiwan has never decreased. In 2012, the Early CKD Program was launched to cover the rest of CKD patients. In addition to early identification and slowing CKD progression, this program aims to improve CKD's low awareness and health literacy, though the effect is still under investigation. Nowadays, the high comorbidities of CKD with its numerous and diverse complications continue to challenge the care system. In Taiwan, several pilot studies and programs are ongoing to improve inter-specialty co-care, referral, and interdisciplinary integration to overcome the aforementioned obstacles. Applying intelligence techniques into CKD care management will be a helpful device to improve high-risk group screening, integrated care completeness, avoidance of nephrotoxic agents, et al.. Based on the established pre-ESRD and Early CKD Program, CKD care in Taiwan still has a long way to go.