THE USE OF SCREENING TOOL IN PATIENT SELECTION FOR HOME DIALYSIS

by

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The Use of Screening Tool in Patient Selection for Home Dialysis

Presented in Partial Fulfillment

of the Requirements for the Degree

Doctor of Nursing Practice

Aspen University

September 2022

Abstract

Patients with kidney failure have a poorer health-related quality of life than those with other chronic conditions and have a higher mortality rate from the build-up of toxins, fluids, and blood infections from dialysis catheters. The cost of services related to kidney failure and maintenance dialysis has been an upward trend adding to the healthcare system's financial burden. Home dialysis has many benefits, such as improving the health-related quality of life and survival advantages. One strategy for increasing home dialysis referrals is patient selection. This project involved teaching the nurses in a freestanding clinic about a screening tool for home dialysis called Method to Assess Treatment Choices for Home Dialysis (MATCH-D). Fifty-nine patients were evaluated using the standard pre-survey assessment and post-survey, applying MATCH-D as a screening tool. Using the three criteria in MATCH-D, fourteen patients were "Strongly Encouraged" to do home dialysis, thirty-two were "Encouraged After Assessing and Eliminating Barriers," and thirteen were "May Not Be Able to Do Home Dialysis." Twelve patients were selected to be more appropriate for home dialysis upon discussion with the patient's provider. Twelve patients were identified as more appropriate candidates after the secondary assessment, and after discussion of home dialysis with patients, seven of the twelve patients agreed to proceed with referral to home dialysis. The findings in this project answered the clinical questions that using MATCH-D can increase the referral to home dialysis. Additionally, all nurses were proficient in MATCH-D using the grading system.

Keywords: dialysis, home dialysis, screening tools for home dialysis, and MATCH-D