

P362

P362 -Home dialysis for profound deaf patient: a case study

Mrs Sarah Ofori-Ansah^{1,2}, Ms Victoria Cosham²

¹London South Bank University, London, United Kingdom, ²Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals NHS Trust, Brighton, UK

Introduction: Patients with disabilities such as visual impairment or deafness find themselves unable to select the renal replacement therapy choice they prefer due to their disabilities. There is little evidence on how to support patients with such disabilities who prefer home dialysis. Therefore, these patients are limited to hospital or satellite dialysis as this is perceived by clinicians to be the best option due to concerns about patient safety. A home dialysis unit embarked on an innovation, to offer home dialysis treatment to a deaf patient with speech difficulties, who uses sign language, type talk and email to communicate. This was based on the principle of giving every patient an equal opportunity to have their preferred dialysis choice where possible.

Method: Deaf service in the local hospital was first consulted to discuss how they can support the patient to have home dialysis as the patient was already known to them. Discussions centred on the provision of an interpreter during the 6-8 weeks training at the hospital and follow-up home visits for as long as it is needed, establishing a two-way effective communication system between the couple and the home dialysis staff at home during dialysis and identifying ways to ensure safety during home dialysis. An agreement on the requirements and expectations to ensure effective and safe home dialysis treatment and support from home dialysis team was also discussed with the couple. The home dialysis team worked with renal technicians and the deaf team on positioning of the dialysis machine (facing patient) then conventional way (sideways) to allow clear visibility of alarms and installation of baby monitors to improve patient safety.

Results: Deaf services worked collaboratively with the home dialysis team to support the couple during their training and are now successfully dialysing at home. Home dialysis staff were trained to use the type talk communication system to ensure swift and effective communication and provide telephone support when needed. Deaf service upgraded the couple's existing type talk communication system and provided them with iPads to enhance their communication. It also allowed the husband to engage in other activities rather than sitting by his wife during dialysis and to be able to provide immediate help when needed by receiving messages including alarms from the dialysis machine sent to his iPad and pager. Effective email and type talk communication has been established between the couple and the home dialysis team. Installation of the baby monitors in the couple's home; one attached to the dialysis machine and others to their phone pagers, enhances patient safety as alarms from the dialysis machine are picked up during dialysis.