

# NEPHROLOGY SOCIAL WORK SALARIES, PATIENT CASELOADS, AND IMPLICATIONS FOR CKD CARE IN THE UNITED STATES

Teri Browne<sup>1</sup>, Joseph Merighi<sup>2</sup>, Aaron Herold<sup>3</sup>

1, 3. Council of Nephrology Social Workers

2. Boston University

In 2007, The Council of Nephrology Social Workers (CNSW) executed an online salary survey for social workers in all settings (CKD, dialysis, transplantation and administration). The anonymous information will help improve the understanding of the current salaries, benefits, licensure status, education level, number of dialysis units covered, scope of transplant social work services provided, and caseloads of nephrology social workers, along with related implications for chronic kidney disease patient care. 1,747 social workers completed the entire survey over several months in 2007. The annual salary ranged from \$20,502-\$83,803 for dialysis social workers and \$37,981-\$84,989 for transplant social workers. Full time social work caseloads in dialysis units were as high as 425 patients. We posit that social workers with high caseloads, that cover more than one dialysis unit, and that have to drive great distances to their workplaces are less able to provide adequate assistance to CKD patients and their families in ameliorating psychosocial barriers to optimal care and outcomes.