

**“KIDNEY MATTERS” PRE-DIALYSIS EDUCATION PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS EXPRESS INCREASED KNOWLEDGE ABOUT, AND COMPETENCE IN, MANAGING CKD AND CHOOSING RENAL REPLACEMENT THERAPY MODALITY; COMPARISON DATA SUGGEST MODEST PARTICIPANT GAIN IN SOME CKD MANAGEMENT BEHAVIOR INDICATORS**

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Kidney Matters (KM) pre-dialysis education program is being developed. Kidney Matters partnered with the Southwest Atlanta Nephrology (SWAN) physicians to initiate the referral of pre-dialysis participants. The SWAN nephrologists agreed to invite their patients in stages 3 and 4 of renal failure to attend the Kidney Matters classes. Each physician was asked to complete an order for education. There were 162 referrals of patients to the Kidney Matters program during the investigation period (July, 2006-April, 2008). In order to compare the CKD management behaviors of patients who attended the Kidney Matters program to those of patients who did not, hospitalizations and missed treatments during the first 3 months of dialysis were counted, and dialysis adequacy was examined during the third, fourth and fifth months of dialysis. Comparison between KM patients and No KM patients; fewer Kidney Matters patients missed treatments during the first 3 months of dialysis, and they achieved adequate dialysis more often during months 3-5 of dialysis, than did patients who did not attend the program. Comparison between KM HD patients and No KM HD patients; fewer KM HD patients missed treatments during the first 3 months of dialysis and achieved adequate dialysis more often during months 3-5 of dialysis, than did patients who did not attend. Comparison between PD and HD patients; fewer PD patients missed treatments during the first 3 months of dialysis than did HD patients. Fewer PD patients were hospitalized during the first 3 months of dialysis, and they spent less time in the hospital than did HD patients. PD patients achieved adequate dialysis more often than did HD patients. Kidney Matters, supports the notion that education programs can play a critical role in preparing newly diagnosed CKD patients for renal replacement therapy.