

Bushra Riaz  
Policy Lead (Scotland)  
Kidney Research UK  
By email

12<sup>th</sup> June 2024

Dear Bushra

**RE: Kidney Research UK CKD Action Plan**

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to feedback on this draft action plan. We have consulted with members and our Scottish Pharmacy Board to compose the following feedback which we hope will be helpful in developing this plan. We are pleased to see this action plan and draft and wish to see the vital role of the pharmacist in managing this cohort of patients reflected in the plan.

**Name of document**

The document is badged as Kidney Research UK and referred to as the UK action plan but appears to be specific to Scotland only. Is there an opportunity to include Scotland in the title to make this clearer?

**Chronic disease monitoring**

It's great to see that the role of pharmacists within community care is referenced in the context of chronic disease monitoring. It would be helpful if the document could be more specific about the role of pharmacists in tackling chronic kidney disease. We suggest that there could be a stronger recommendation to re-position the role of pharmacists in the multidisciplinary team managing this patient group.

The pharmacotherapy service in Scottish primary care practices is part of the 2018 General Medical Services Contract. This service embeds pharmacists and pharmacy technicians in the primary care multidisciplinary team to deliver (amongst



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**Dr. Geraldine McCaffrey MRPharmS**

other services) polypharmacy reviews and specialist clinics. Pharmacists in Scotland are highly qualified and well-positioned as members of primary care teams. Thirty-four percent of pharmacists in Scotland are non-medical prescribers, able to prescribe autonomously. This may offer an approach to supporting annual (or more frequent) reviews.

Pharmacists may have an impact across all care settings, for example, community pharmacists, if they had access to patient records, could access a patient's recorded renal function and take that into consideration when providing Pharmacy First Plus services or medication reviews (optimising their medicines doses); primary care pharmacists could be undertaking polypharmacy and CKD focussed medication reviews in GP practices (and care homes) and in secondary care, pharmacists can and do have a role in the outpatient setting optimising patients medicines taking into consideration the patient's renal function and trying to slow the deterioration in kidney function.

As an example of the value of community pharmacists having access to patient records, one of our Board members shared their experience of contacting the local out of hours service to access information on a patient's renal function in order to safely prescribe an antibiotic for their patient with a urinary tract infection. This delay could have been prevented if the role of the community pharmacist in supporting patients with CKD in their community was better understood.

### **Role of IT**

It's great that the report includes a desire to see the GP system linked in with secondary care and community pharmacy. The reference to the roll out of the national GP IT system from 2026 is helpful, but could we add that for this to be effective pharmacists will need to have read and write access into the system to ensure continuity of care?

### **Prescribing decisions**

On page 17, the text states: "CKD is common among people over 60 years old visiting their GP and is one of several comorbidities that can complicate effective prescribing decisions".

Pharmacists have a role in prescribing and monitoring prescribing decisions. The plan suggests closer monitoring of the prescribing of medicines which slow the decline. Perhaps we could add here that the Effective Prescribing and Therapeutics Division at Scottish Government consider monitoring these as part of the National Therapeutic Indicators.

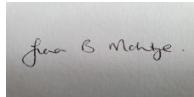
### **Community-based awareness and prevention programme for CKD**



There is an opportunity here to add a pharmacy related action, for example, to explore CKD awareness as a topic for the public health messaging that goes into community pharmacies through Public Health Scotland.

While we recognise the target population for the Sick Day Rules cards initiative is to prevent acute kidney injury we suggest there might also be value in incorporating this as a tool to support CKD patients in preventing further injury in the event of illness.

Yours sincerely

A small rectangular image showing a handwritten signature in black ink on a light-colored background. The signature reads "Fiona B McIntyre".

Fiona B McIntyre

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