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# Press Release

The Mid-Atlantic Renal Coalition and the Kidney End-of-Life Coalition develop pain management brochure for renal caregivers.

*Members of the Mid-Atlantic Renal Coalition and the Kidney End-of-Life Coalition have developed a brochure and algorithm to assist caregivers while treating pain in dialysis patients.*

Midlothian, VA, September 30, 2009: The Mid-Atlantic Renal Coalition (MARC) announces the development of the brochure *Clinical Algorithm & Preferred Medications to Treat Pain in Dialysis Patients*. MARC convened an expert panel to develop the brochure in order to assist caregivers while managing pain in dialysis patients. The brochure was previewed at the September 2009 preconference *Hospice & Palliative Care for Dialysis Patients: Past Successes, Remaining Challenges*, and is now available under the "Professional Resources" section of the Kidney End-of-Life Coalition's website – <http://www.kidneyeol.org/resources.htm>.

It is well documented that 75% of dialysis patients have pain that goes under-treated, or, in many cases, untreated. Studies indicate that appropriate pain and symptom management can significantly improve quality of life indicators for these patients. Considering that protocols for other patient populations are not always appropriate for CKD patients, MARC convened an international panel of pain and symptom management experts to develop an algorithm specific to managing pain in dialysis patients. The expert panel was led by Alvin H. Moss, MD, from West Virginia University. Other members of the team included Joanna Chambers, MB, Southmead Hospital (UK); Lewis Cohen, MD, Baystate Medical Center; Sara Davison, MD, University of Alberta; Fred Finkelstein, MD, Yale University Hospital of St. Raphael; and Steven Weisbord, MD, University of Pittsburgh.

The pain management algorithm is included in the brochure, along with an overview of the essentials of pain management, the World Health Organization's analgesic ladder, instructions for neuropathic and nociceptive pain treatment, how to manage opioid adverse effects, preferred medications in CKD and a pain assessment tool. It is the hope of MARC and the Kidney End-of-Life Coalition that this brochure will be used to improve the quality of care for all CKD patients.

To view and download the brochure, visit <http://www.kidneyeol.org/painbrochure9.09.pdf>.

**For Immediate Release**