



30 East 33rd Street, Suite 900 • New York, New York 10016-5337 • USA • www.kdigo.org • (212) 889-3427

NEWS RELEASE

New Global Bone and Mineral Metabolism Guidelines for Chronic Kidney Disease

Brussels, Belgium (June 14, 2005) — Kidney Disease: Improving Global Outcomes (KDIGO, www.kdigo.org), an international organization focused on clinical practice guidelines and related quality improvement activities, has announced plans to develop and implement the first global guideline on bone and mineral metabolism in chronic kidney disease (CKD). The guideline development process will follow a Controversies Conference in Madrid, Spain this September.

KDIGO's co-chairs, Dr. Norbert Lameire of Ghent, Belgium and Dr. Garabed Eknoyan of Houston, Texas stated that the worldwide need for better integration of the latest scientific studies into clinical management of bone disease and CKD requires that a new global guideline be developed. Previous guidelines have been published in the United States and elsewhere, however bone disease is a complex and critical problem for patients and requires the most up to date knowledge to improve patient outcomes. No previous guideline has comprehensively covered the spectrum of tests and treatments now available.

“KDIGO is the organization to do this Controversies Conference and subsequent clinical practice guidelines because its global focus will allow us to build on all previous work, recruit the world's leading experts and maintain a scientifically rigorous independent process to publish and implement recommendations for physicians and patients,” said Dr. Eknoyan.

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“We have learned from 10 years of experience with the National Kidney Foundation’s Kidney Disease Outcomes Quality Initiative (KDOQI) guideline process that implementation is vital. Implementation of guidelines throughout the world is a major part of the mission of KDIGO. As KDOQI continues to improve outcomes in the United States, KDIGO will use guidelines and implementation to improve outcomes on a global basis,” he said.

This guideline on bone and mineral metabolism in CKD will be KDIGO’s second original global guideline. It follows an effort initiated earlier this year to develop the world’s first guidelines on hepatitis C and kidney disease. KDIGO will utilize an independent expert work group, professional methodologists and broad community review and input. The guideline development will take 18 months. This new bone and mineral metabolism guideline will provide the world’s nephrology community with up to date information and new recommendations that will replace and update previous guidelines published by KDOQI and others. KDIGO guidelines will be published and supported by implementation tools and materials that will be distributed worldwide.

“We are beginning with a major Controversies Conference which will bring 70 to 90 international experts together to identify key clinical questions for the guideline. It will also help us decide what we know and can do now with it, as well as determine what we need to know,” said Dr. Lameire.

“This will lead to a consensus on current practice recommendations and the issues for our evidence based guideline. We have asked Dr. Sharon Moe of Indianapolis, Indiana and Dr. Tilman Drueke of Paris to chair the conference. Taking into account what we learn at the Controversies Conference, KDIGO will appoint a work group this fall to develop the guidelines,” he said.

KDIGO is a non-profit Belgian foundation in the public interest with its fiduciary responsibility vested in a forty member international Board of Directors and managed by the National Kidney Foundation, a United States non-profit organization with ten years experience in guideline development and implementation. More information is available at www.kdigo.org.