



KDIGO News Release

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(Brussels, Belgium) - - Kidney Disease: Improving Global Outcomes (KDIGO), the organization dedicated to developing and implementing global guidelines in kidney disease, announces the publication of its latest work, *Definition and Classification of Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD)*. This important global guideline has been published online at www.kdigo.org and as a supplement in *Kidney International*, January 2013.

The evidence-based clinical practice guideline expands the existing classification system for CKD by adding an estimation of the level of protein in the urine to the assessment of kidney function, based on estimated glomerular filtration rate. The new classification system also addresses the cause of kidney disease.

KDIGO Co-chair Dr. Bertram Kasiske of the University of Minnesota said, "For a decade we have used a simple chart to divide kidney disease into five categories based on the kidney's ability to filter blood. This has staged the severity of disease, but not the risk of progression."

"This new system", Dr. Kasiske added, "overlays urinary protein levels with glomerular filtration rates to produce a risk grid. These two factors are much better predictors of worsening kidney disease than either are alone."

The goal of all KDIGO guidelines is to help physicians and patients make better decisions on needed care. Targeting risk and the prediction of who will progress and who will not are major factors in determining appropriate treatment.

The guideline was developed using rigorous scientific methods by a global workgroup chaired by Dr. Adeera Levin of the University of British Columbia and Dr. Paul Stevens, of East Kent Hospitals University NHS Foundation Trust, UK.

"This KDIGO Guideline provides a framework which will help to refine our ability to conduct research and develop care plans for patients with CKD," Dr. Levin said. She added, "We believe systematic evaluation and follow up of patients with CKD helps to slow progression of kidney disease, and this guideline will help to inform future studies and care so that we can optimize the outcomes of patients around the world."

"We also provide recommendations on managing complications like anemia, bone and mineral disorders, and cardiovascular disease. The new guideline also includes targets for blood pressure control and advice on using various medicines and interpreting lab tests, which will be valuable for all who are involved in the care of these patients."

Dr. Wheeler, KDIGO Co-chair, pointed out, "The previous system gave us a common language to use when discussing kidney disease. This new guideline refines the classification system to highlight patients at higher risk of progressing to dialysis or developing cardiovascular complications."

All KDIGO Guidelines include a section on needed research. In this case, the need is to further analyze the risk factors and strengthen the diagnosis of kidney disease. It also takes the former, broad "middle" category (Stage 3 CKD) and divides it into two identifiable subcategories.

Dr. Wheeler added, "Now that this guideline has been published, the major job of implementation begins. The science and disease are global. Implementation is local. This is a challenge KDIGO accepts and pursues through its Implementation Task Force, which will for the first time be working with the International Society of Nephrology's Global Outreach team. We believe that this integrated effort will facilitate the dissemination of the guidelines with the aim of improving patient outcomes worldwide".

KDIGO is a Belgium Foundation in the Public Interest and has been producing global clinical practice guidelines in kidney disease for seven years. It is led by a volunteer Board and Executive Committee made up of international experts in various aspects of kidney disease. Its process features rigorous outside review and broad input, minimizing commercial or academic bias.