

Living Well with Kidney Disease: the role of the GPwER in improving equitable access to kidney care in primary care

Kristin Veighey, Johanna Curtis, Pritti Aggarwal
LivingWell Partnership Primary Care Network, Southampton, UK

INTRODUCTION

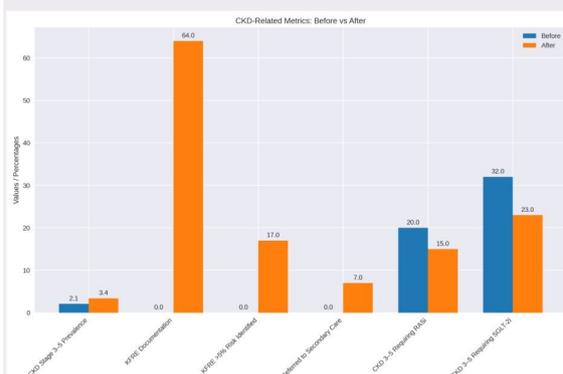
CKD is an emerging public health emergency. Coding in primary care improves outcomes, but is often incomplete, limiting access to evidence-based treatments. Primary care teams report time as a major barrier to care for people with CKD.

Living Well Partnership is an 8 site PCN practice with 190+ employees and a patient population of 46,500, which covers a 5-mile radius to the east of Southampton, including areas of significant socioeconomic deprivation.



RESULTS

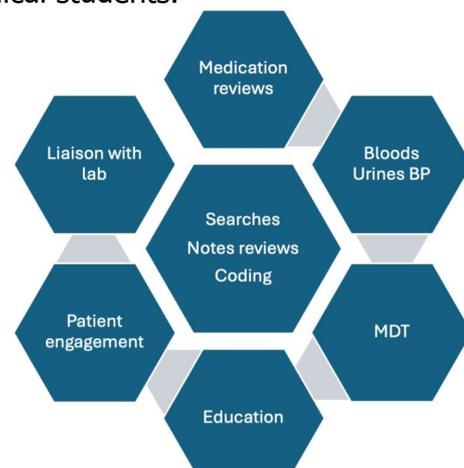
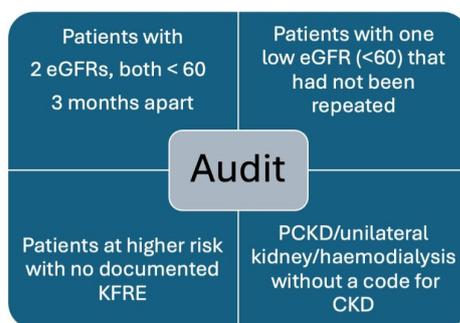
The change in CKD metrics before and at 18 months following the project start are summarised in the chart below.



All patients received medications optimisation and clinical review appropriate to their risk.

METHODOLOGY

We established a GPwER-led clinic within the PCN, supported by data quality and pharmacy teams, interface pharmacists, and medical students. In-person and telephone consultations were available to discuss diagnosis, lifestyle choices, medication, and guidelines for sick days. The PCN GPs had the option to consult with or refer to the GPwER, who participated in a monthly online MDT alongside a nephrologist to address complex cases or any uncertainties. Educational sessions were conducted within the PCN and the local area for healthcare professionals and medical students.



CONCLUSION

A multi-disciplinary team approach, led by a GP with a special interest, serves as a powerful and effective strategy to enhance the quality and fairness of evidence-based care for individuals living with chronic kidney disease in primary care settings. The RCGP have subsequently supported development of a framework for GPwER in Kidney Health, which was published in Autumn 2025.

Additional investment from Boehringer Ingelheim and the Hampshire & Isle of Wight (HIOW) Integrated Care Board has been secured, allowing regional expansion and integration of the clinic in the HIOW Community Trust.

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