

Abstract for Poster and Oral Presentation

by Brenda Harvey

Chronic illness can challenge the identities, roles and relationships of family member. Systems theory provides a framework for understanding the meaning of illness following the diagnosis of a family member/s with chronic renal failure.

The diagnosis, treatment and care of patients with chronic renal failure demands a holistic approach integrating the physical, biological, psychological and social. Systemic models offer an interactive and developmental approach to chronic illness. A systemic view takes account of the nature of illness/disability and loss; the individual, family and illness life-cycles and belief system.

The poster provides a visual aid to holistic care by identifying key contextual issues which impact on the patient and family coping mechanisms and quality of life. It is also intended that the poster raises the awareness of the psycho-social dimension in patient care and, by implication, the need for appropriate support staff.

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