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Diabetic Kidney Disease: Exploring Factors that Impede Early Detection and Intervention in the Primary Care Setting

A thesis presented in partial fulfilment of the
requirements for the degree of
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ABSTRACT

This thesis describes a study which aimed to identify factors which impede early detection and treatment of diabetic kidney disease (DKD) in primary care.

Diabetic kidney disease is a common, harmful, and costly chronic healthcare condition. Despite long-established and evidence-based guidelines recommending early detection and treatment as the optimal management strategy, significant numbers of people continue to be either undetected or undertreated.

Using a qualitative descriptive methodology, focus groups for primary care healthcare practitioners and semi-structured interviews with patients were conducted. Participants' knowledge about DKD, its risk factors and management, and their perceptions about progression of the disease was collected. Content analysis extracted patterns of ideas from the data and then grouped them into key themes which were then interpreted from the perspective of Wagner's Chronic Care Model. Two themes emerged from patient interviews: locating health within one's lifestyle and motivators to change the priority of that position. Focus groups with health care practitioners revealed four themes: knowledge of best practice, screening and recall, models of primary care delivery, and factors which affect patients' engagement with healthcare services.

This study identified several factors which were found to impede the early detection and treatment of DKD in primary health. This thesis discusses those factors, placing them in the context of current literature on the topic, and from the perspective of effective provision of chronic care. Recommendations for possible improvements are offered, along with suggested directions for future research.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ACE	Angiotensin converting enzyme	HbA1c	Glycated haemoglobin
ARB	Angiotensin II receptor blocker	HCP	Healthcare practitioner
CAKS	Council of American Kidney Societies	HQOL	Health-related quality of life
CCM	Chronic Care Model	KDIGO	Kidney Disease: Improving Global Outcomes
CKD	Chronic kidney disease	KDOQI	Kidney Disease Outcomes Quality Initiative
CVD	Cardiovascular disease	QD	Qualitative description
DKD	Diabetic kidney disease	RRT	Renal replacement therapy
eGFR	Estimated glomerular filtration rate	T1DM	Type one diabetes mellitus
ESKD	End stage kidney disease	T2DM	Type two diabetes mellitus
GFR	Glomerular filtration rate	UKPDS	United Kingdom Prospective Diabetes Study
GP	General practitioner		