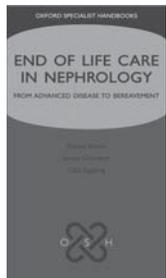


## Book Review



**Reviewed by: Dr Shelley Tranter Clinical Nurse Consultant  
St George Hospital Renal Department, Sydney.**

**End of Life Care in Nephrology: From advanced disease to bereavement**  
Brown Edwina, Chambers E. Joanna and Eggeling Celia, series Editor Watson Max. 2007  
Oxford University Press New York \$79.95 ISBN 978-0-19-921105-0

*End of Life Care in Nephrology* is another offering from the experts in the field of palliative care in renal medicine from the United Kingdom. The handbook has evolved from a previous collaborative book - Supportive Care for the Renal Patient edited by Brown and Chambers, which has been reviewed previously in this journal. Edwina Brown is Honorary Professor of Renal Medicine, Imperial College London and Dr Jo Chambers is a consultant in palliative care at North Bristol NHS Trust. Dr Celia Eggeling is a renal counsellor. All three have contributed regularly to literature in the field of renal palliative medicine including contributions to the recently released *End of Life Care in Advanced Kidney Disease Framework* for the NHS.

Palliative care in renal disease has gained widespread interest in a time when there is a large growth in patient numbers, the majority of whom are sicker and elderly.

Additionally, chronic kidney disease and predialysis nurses have identified the need to support patients who do not choose the dialysis pathway or require assistance in their decision making.

The handbook is a comprehensive guide to the management of patients with CKD at the end of life and a ready reckoner on symptom management. It is handbook size and very easy to read. Through out the handbook case histories are used to illustrate management in practice and space has been left for the reader to include personal notes.

The opening chapters set the scene by giving a brief overview of CKD including prevalence and common causes and sequelae. The context is the United Kingdom and this is the only drawback of this book. Notwithstanding, the context is fairly congruent with our Australian and New Zealand experiences.

Subsequent chapters discuss the major co morbidities of CKD and highlight the effects of co morbidities on mortality, morbidity and quality of life. There are chapters which address the common complications, symptoms and causes of death in the UK CKD group. The final chapters introduce the reader to ethical and legal considerations, spiritual and religious care and discussions on methods of approaching difficult conversations with patients and families.

End of life care is not just a role for a palliative care professional and all members of the renal team need to be cognisant of ways they can assist patients and families during this difficult time.

In summary *End of Life Care in Nephrology* provides a detailed and collaborative approach to the palliative and supportive care of patients with CKD and would be a valuable reference book for all renal health professionals.

### Letter to the Editor

Dear Paul,

I thought the recent 'history' issue was fantastic, as did many of my colleagues. The younger ones were all agog at what used to be commonplace in dialysis. I have been working in dialysis for 20 years and have witnessed many changes and advances that have helped patients and staff alike. After reading all the articles I feel I am still a babe in the woods.

Many thanks to all the contributing authors and guest editors who helped put together such an informative and eye opening (popping) edition of the RSAJ.

Regards

Kirsten Black Clinical Nurse Educator Royal Hobart Hospital

*Thank you Kirsten. It is important to acknowledge and thank the hard work of Dr Ann Bonner and Dr Deirdre Fetherstonhaugh who were Guest Editors of the History Issue. Cheers, Paul Bennett. Editor.*