

Editorial on Accelerating Innovation in Nephrology

William L Salzer

University of Missouri, USA

The loss of kidney function is a life-changing event leading to life-long dependence on healthcare. Around 5000 people are diagnosed with kidney failure every year. Historically, technology in renal medicine has been employed for replacement therapies. Recently, a lot of emphasis has been placed on technologies that aid early identification and prevent progression of kidney disease, while at the same time empowering affected individuals to gain control over their chronic illness. There is a shift in diversity of technology development, driven by collaborative innovation initiatives such the National Institute's for Health Research Healthcare Technology Co-operative for Devices for Dignity. This has seen the emergence of the patient as a key figure in designing technologies that are fit for purpose, while business involvement has ensured uptake and sustainability of these developments.

More than 700,000 people have ESRD and require life sustaining dialysis treatments several times per week. Many beneficiaries with ESRD suffer from poorer health outcomes, often the result of underlying disease complications and multiple co-morbidities. These can lead to high rates of hospital admission and readmissions, as well as a mortality rate that is higher than that of the general Medicare population. The CEC Model includes separate financial arrangements for larger and smaller dialysis organizations. Large Dialysis Organizations (LDOs), which have 200 or more dialysis facilities, will be eligible to receive shared savings payments. These large dialysis organizations will also be liable for shared losses, and will have higher overall levels of risk compared with their smaller counterparts.