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Global Nutrition Care in Kidney Disease

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Nutrition intervention is an essential component of kidney disease management. The International Society of Renal Nutrition and Metabolism (ISRNM), working in partnership with International Society of Nephrology (ISN) Global Kidney Health Atlas Committee developed this Global Kidney Nutrition Care Atlas. Our aim is to understand current global availability and capacity of kidney nutrition care services, interdisciplinary communication and availability of oral nutrition supplement. An electronic survey was administered among key kidney care stakeholders through 182 ISN affiliated countries between July and September 2018. Overall, 160 of 182 countries (88%) responded, of which 155 countries (97%) answered the survey items related to kidney nutrition care. Only 48% of the 155 countries have dietitians/renal dietitians to provide this specialized service. Dietary counselling provided by a person trained in nutrition was generally not available in 65% of low/lower-middle income countries and 'never' available in 23% of low income countries. Forty-one percent of the countries did not provide formal assessment of nutrition status for kidney nutrition care. The availability of oral nutrition supplements varied globally and mostly not freely available in low/lower middle income countries for both inpatient and outpatient settings. Dietitians and nephrologists only communicated 'sometimes' on kidney nutrition care in $\geq 60\%$ of countries globally. In conclusion, the survey reveals significant gaps in global kidney nutrition care service capacity, availability, cost coverage and deficiencies in inter-disciplinary communication on kidney nutrition care delivery, especially in lower income countries. The report will be an important advocacy tool to promote governmental prioritization and allocation of resources and manpower for this essential component in kidney care worldwide, especially in lower income countries