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Press Release (FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE)

Coalition for Supportive Care of Kidney Patients Releases Advance Care Planning Tools

Richmond, VA, March 20, 2017: The Coalition for Supportive Care of Kidney Patients (CSCKP) is pleased to announce the release of two new tools to assist patients and their kidney care teams in advance care planning. The brochure, [*Planning Today for Tomorrow's Healthcare: A Guide for People with Chronic Kidney Disease*](#), introduces patients and their kidney care teams to the process of advance care planning. It details the five steps of planning that allow patients to have control over their healthcare in the event that they cannot speak for themselves. The companion [*Curriculum Guide for Advance Care Planning*](#) is designed to assist facility staff in having advance care planning discussions with patients.

These tools were developed as part of the MY WAY Project, which seeks to test the impact of advance care planning coaching on outcomes and health service utilization of patients with chronic kidney disease. Although advance care planning discussions are associated with improved care, only a small percentage of dialysis patients have an advance care plan, according to the project's principal investigator Dale Lupu, PhD. The project, which is funded by The Patrick and Catherine Weldon Donaghue Medical Research Foundation, is being conducted by The George Washington University Center for Aging, Health & Humanities, with CSCKP serving as a sub-awardee.

CSCKP and the project team gratefully acknowledge the input provided by members of the project's advisory group and extend a special thank-you to Elizabeth Anderson, DSW, LCSW, for her work on these materials.

CSCKP brings together like-minded people who care deeply about the quality of compassionate, supportive care for kidney patients. Membership encompasses professionals from many disciplines and laypersons who are working for true patient-centered care that values quality of life. To learn more about CSCKP, visit <http://kidneysupportivecare.org>.

The Patrick and Catherine Weldon Donaghue Medical Research Foundation provides grants for medical research of practical benefit. It focuses on initiatives to strengthen research on health issues, to promote research leadership, and to put new knowledge to work for public benefit. The Foundation is particularly interested in funding research that has the potential for a direct, near term impact to improve health and in supporting initiatives designed to promote the transfer of knowledge to useful applications. Learn more about the Donaghue Foundation at <http://donaghue.org>.