



**BC Renal
Agency**

An agency of the Provincial
Health Services Authority



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New five-language DVD available for BC patients with kidney disease

Vancouver, BC – The BC Renal Agency, an agency of the Provincial Health Services Authority, is introducing a new five-language DVD about kidney disease and the various treatments available.

The DVD can be played in English, Chinese (Mandarin and Cantonese), Punjabi and Tagalog and is available free to anyone who requests a copy on a first-come, first-served basis.

“This DVD will be of interest to people who have just been diagnosed with kidney disease and those who have the disease and would like to know more about different aspects of its care and treatment,” said Health Minister George Abbott. “The focus is on patients who tell their own stories about their experiences. Making it available in five languages is another way of reaching out to B.C.’s multicultural communities with important health care information.”

Through interviews with a number of kidney patients and their family members, *Patient to Patient, Kidney Care in B.C.* includes sections on living with chronic kidney disease before dialysis; hospital or clinic-based dialysis; independent (home-based) dialysis; kidney transplant; and “conservative care” (referring to those with end-stage kidney disease who choose not to be dialyzed, but rather to let the disease run its natural course).

“We believe this is the most comprehensive ‘patient to patient’ resource available in North America, and we are pleased to be able to offer it to patients with kidney disease and their families,” says Dr. Adeera Levin, executive director of the BC Renal Agency. “The DVD provides valuable information as well as inspiration to a range of patients, from those who are newly diagnosed to those who have lived with kidney disease for some time.”

An estimated 145,000 British Columbians live with some form of kidney disease. Because early-stage symptoms are easily misunderstood or ignored, many people are not aware they have the disease.

Copies of the DVD are available through renal programs in all health authorities, OR by emailing bcpra@bcpra (noting *Patient to Patient* in the subject line) or calling the agency at 604 875 7340. For more information about the BC Provincial Renal Agency, visit www.bcrenalagency.ca.