

## Appendix 1: INTERVIEW GUIDE

### Perspectives of rural patients on access to kidney replacement therapy

#### Diagnosis and referral

1. Could you tell me about what happened leading up to the time you were diagnosed with kidney disease? What made you decide to see someone about it?
2. How did you come to start seeing the doctor (e.g., GP, nephrologist)?

#### Education and support

3. Who have you seen about your health/kidney disease (e.g., GP, nephrologist, social worker, dietician)?
4. Did you receive any education about kidney disease and treatment – what was helpful/not helpful – why?

#### Access to kidney replacement therapy

5. What sorts of decisions have you had to make about your treatment (PD, home HD, in-centre HD, living donor transplant, deceased donor transplant)?
6. How did you make those decisions – what sorts of things did you consider?
7. What was your “preferred” choice – why? And was this possible – why/why not?
8. Were there any issues/barriers/challenges (delays) to starting and continuing with these treatments – how did these impact on you (including care/health), and family?
  - Transport
  - Accommodation
  - Employment / time off work
  - Financial
  - Family/community support

*\*Dialysis – training, surgery, obtaining supplies; Transplant – work up, donor support, surgery*

#### Suggestions to improve access

9. What do you think are the top three most important things that are needed to help patient in rural communities get started/continue (access) their preferred treatment – why?

#### Close

Is there something that you think might be relevant to mention that we have not already covered, and you would like to share?