

## Palliative care integration in advanced chronic kidney disease: a qualitative systematic review and thematic synthesis of patient and caregiver lived experiences, challenges, and perceived supportive strategies

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### **Content**

**Annex 1:** full electronic search strategies used across four databases (MEDLINE/Ovid, PubMed, CINAHL Complete/EBSCO, and Google Scholar) to identify qualitative and mixed-methods studies on palliative care integration in advanced chronic kidney disease (CKD), with searches initially run on 30 June 2023 and updated on 05 November 2025, yielding 1,238 records in total before deduplication

<p><b>Annex 1:</b> full electronic search strategies used across four databases (MEDLINE/Ovid, PubMed, CINAHL Complete/EBSCO, and Google Scholar) to identify qualitative and mixed-methods studies on palliative care integration in advanced chronic kidney disease (CKD), with searches initially run on 30 June 2023 and updated on 05 November 2025, yielding 1,238 records in total before deduplication</p>	
Database	Search strategy
<p><b>MEDLINE (Ovid) (last run 05 Nov 2025)</b></p>	<p>exp *Kidney failure, Chronic/* or exp *Renal insufficiency, Chronic/* (chronic kidney disease* or CKD OR end-stage renal or ESRD or ESKD or renal failure*. ti,ab,kf. *Palliative care/* or *Terminal care/* or *Hospice care/* or *Supportive care/* (palliative or supportive care or hospice or end of life or terminal care. ti, ab, kf. exp *Qualitative research/* or *Interview/* or *Focus groups/* (qualitative or interview* or focus group* or theme* or grounded theory or lived experience* or perspective* or experience*.ti,ab,kf. (patient* or caregiver* or carer* or family or spouse*.ti,ab,kf. Limit to English language and yr="2013–Current" Result:154 records</p>
<p><b>PubMed (30 Jun 2023-05 Nov 2025)</b></p>	<p>("chronic kidney disease"[Mesh] or "renal insufficiency, chronic"[Mesh] or CKD or "end stage renal disease" or ESRD OR ESKD) and ("palliative care"[Mesh] or "terminal care"[Mesh] or "hospice care"[Mesh] or palliative OR "supportive care" or "end of life") and (qualitative[tiab] or "lived experience"[tiab] or interview*[tiab] or "focus group"[tiab]or "thematic analysis"[tiab]) and (patient*[tiab] OR caregiver*[tiab]or carer*[tiab] or family[tiab]) and ("2013/01/01"[PDAT:"2025/11/05"[PDAT]) and English[la] Result:168 records</p>
<p><b>3. CINAHL Complete (EBSCO) (30 Jun 2023-05 Nov 2025)</b></p>	<p>(MH "Kidney failure, Chronic") or (TI ("chronic kidney disease" or CKD OR ESRD OR ESKD)) or (AB ("chronic kidney disease" or CKD or ESRD or ESKD)) AND (MH "Palliative care") or (TI (palliative or "supportive care" or hospice or "end of life")) or (AB (palliative OR "supportive care" or hospice or "end of life")) and (MH "Qualitative studies") or (TI (qualitative or interview* or "focus group*" or "lived experience")) or (AB (qualitative or interview* or "focus group*" or "lived experience")) and (TI (patient* or caregiver* or carer* or family)) or (AB (patient* or caregiver* or carer* or family)) Limiters: English Language;2013-2025, Result:142 records</p>
<p><b>4. Google Scholar (first 200 results; 05 Nov 2025)</b></p>	<p>Palliative title: "chronic kidney disease" or CKD or ESRD or ESKD and ("palliative care" or "supportive care" or hospice) and (qualitative or interview or "lived experience") and (patient OR caregiver) Date range:2013-2025, Result: 200records</p>
<p><b>Summary:</b> from 1,238 records identified across four databases (MEDLINE, PubMed, CINAHL Complete, Google Scholar), 1,134 remained after removal of 104 duplicates via DistillerSR. Title/abstract screening excluded 1,047 records (quantitative only n=612; wrong population n=298; no palliative/supportive care focus n=137). Of 87 full-text articles assessed, 70 were excluded (quantitative only n=42; paediatric/acute kidney injury n=11; no substantive palliative element n=9; duplicate data n=5; non-English full text unavailable n=3). Seventeen studies met all eligibility criteria and were included. Boolean operators: and is used between concept blocks; OR is used within blocks. MeSH: Medical Subject Headings; Cumulative Index to Nursing and Allied Health Literature (CINAHL); ESKD: end-stage kidney disease; CKD: chronic kidney disease</p>	