

## **HIPS/23/17 – Understanding And Reducing Inequalities In Kidney Health Care And Outcomes In Scotland**

This proposal will provide a clearer understanding of the sources of inequities in kidney health care in Scotland, and suggest actions that could make kidney care fairer for all. People with kidney disease from deprived (under-served) areas of Scotland are more likely to miss opportunities to receive healthcare, get worse quicker, and die younger. We do not yet know how best to address this. We propose a novel study following 140,000 people with newly diagnosed kidney disease in Scotland. By linking health data from people in the study to the Scottish Censuses of 2011 and 2022, and by following them over time, we will be able to study the relationship between socioeconomic circumstances and kidney health in greater detail than has previously been possible. We will learn how deprivation influences the diagnosis, care, and health outcomes for people from different backgrounds. We will also use this study to evaluate the reverse relationship of how poor kidney health affects their subsequent life circumstances including their ability to work, living with a disability, and mental health. We will interview working-age people with kidney disease and do focus groups with general practice staff from deprived areas of Glasgow and Grampian to learn about their experiences of diagnosis, accessing care, and the adjustments they find they need to make. Then, in workshops with patients and professional experts, we will agree priority strategies and actions that address the problems that we identify.