

Multidisciplinary support of children with chronic renal conditions

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The multidisciplinary approach to the pediatric patients on long term treatment or on programmed haemodialysis helps to estimate the positive results of the cooperation experience between “Arabkir” MC&ICAH and Direct Aid Association, an NGO that runs social and educational programs for the paediatric patients. Such model of support services is specifically acceptable in countries with limited resources.

As there are only 4 regional hemodialysis departments (in 10 regions of Armenia) many patients are to relocate and stay close to these departments. On the grounds of our center there is Patient Family House, run by DAA that provides shelter to the patients from remote areas. There is also a hospital school teaching all school subjects as well as foreign languages and handicrafts. Within the social integration program hospital school often organizes handicraft exhibitions which stimulates the patients to open up to the society.

As a special program of the hospital school we'd like to mention the Special Educators' Club which involves special educators from the regions of Armenia. This provides a possibility to reintegrate the children into their home schools smoothly, with necessary professional support in education once the child is back to his hometown.

The long stay in the hospital especially reflects on the patients from socially underprivileged families. This is true about the patients with congenital and inherited conditions who need to be on regular check-ups. Within the psychosocial program we try to provide support to these patients for their regular check-ups.