



Quality
Insights
Renal Network 4



Network 4 NEWS

A Monthly Newsletter for Quality Insights Renal Network 4

STAY CONNECTED



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GREETINGS FROM QUALITY INSIGHTS RENAL NETWORK 4

Welcome to the August issue of the Quality Insights Renal Network 4 e-newsletter. In this issue, we bring you information about vaccinations for adults, upcoming webinar opportunities, CMS updates, upcoming events and more. We encourage you to [contact us](#) with any questions, concerns or suggestions.



FACILITY-LED PATIENT EDUCATION TOPIC OF THE MONTH: VACCINATIONS FOR ADULTS

We will provide a Network 4 Patient Education Sheet each month in 2019. Please provide all of your patients with this education sheet each month. Also, we ask that you please encourage your facility's Patient Representatives to pass out this educational information.

- 3 Important Reasons for Adults to Get Vaccinated ([English](#) / [Spanish](#))



QUICK LINKS

[Quality Insights Renal Network 4 Website](#)

[Medicare's Dialysis Facility Compare](#)

[National Kidney Foundation](#)

[American Kidney Fund](#)

[Kidney Foundation of Central Pennsylvania](#)

[Pennsylvania Health Department: Health Alert, Advisories and Updates](#)

[Western PA Kidney Support Groups](#)

UPDATED INTERIM INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL RECOMMENDATIONS FOR MEASLES IN HEALTHCARE SETTINGS

CDC's updated [Interim Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Measles in Healthcare Settings](#) can help clinicians protect against the spread of measles. Measles is most commonly spread from person to person either at home or in public settings, but it can also spread in healthcare settings. While the most important way to prevent the spread of measles is community vaccination, core measles prevention in healthcare settings requires a multi-faceted approach including:

- Ensuring healthcare personnel (HCP) have presumptive evidence of immunity to measles
- Rapidly identifying and isolating patients with known or suspected measles
- Adhering to Standard and Airborne Precautions for patients with known or suspected measles
- Routinely promoting and facilitating respiratory hygiene and cough etiquette
- Appropriately managing exposed and ill HCP

CDC's interim guidance should be implemented as part of a comprehensive infection prevention program to prevent the spread of germs among patients, healthcare providers, and visitors.

NETWORKS PARTNER WITH MTPPI TO HOST FREE WEBINARS ON PCORI FINDINGS

This fall, together with Medical Technology and Practice Patterns Institute (MTPPI), Quality Insights Renal Networks 3, 4 and 5 will provide a series of free webinars targeted to patients, dialysis facility staff, and nephrologists. The webinars will disseminate findings from four Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) studies. Registration is required for each webinar and continuing education credit will be provided to social workers. See additional details below.

Thursday, September 12, 2019 at 12:00 p.m. EST

Online Dialysis Modality Tool

Speaker: Dr. Francesca Tentori

Audience: Patients, dialysis facility staff, nephrologists

[Register today.](#)

Tuesday, October 15, 2019 at 3:00 p.m. EST

Depression in Dialysis Patients

Speaker: Dr. Rajnish Mehrotra

Audience: Patients

[Register today.](#)

Tuesday, October 29, 2019 at 3:00 p.m. EST

Depression in Dialysis Patients



Speaker: Dr. Rajnish Mehrotra

Audience: Dialysis facility staff, nephrologists

[Register today.](#)

Thursday, December 12, 2019 at 12:00 p.m. EST

Shared Decision Making - Renal Supportive Care

Speakers: Dr. Joan Berzoff and Jenny Kitsen

Audience: Social Workers

[Register today.](#)

CDC/STRIVE ANNOUNCES FREE INFECTION CONTROL TRAINING COURSES

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has announced the launch of the first two of 11 new infection control training courses, **Hand Hygiene** and **Competency-Based Training**. These courses are part of the new [States Targeting Reduction in Infections via Engagement \(STRIVE\)](#) curriculum intended for the infection prevention team, hospital leaders, clinical educators, nurse and physician managers, environmental services managers, all patient care staff, and patient/family advisors. Additional courses will be launched over the summer.

These training courses were developed by national infection prevention experts led by the Health Research & Educational Trust (HRET) for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

All courses are free and offer continuing education (CE).

Access the new courses at the [STRIVE training page](#).

The STRIVE curriculum will include over forty individual training modules grouped into 11 courses that focus on Foundational and Targeted infection prevention strategies.

Foundational Infection Prevention Strategies

- [Competency-Based Training](#) (available now)
- [Hand Hygiene](#) (available now)
- Strategies for Preventing HAIs
- Environmental Cleaning
- Personal Protective Equipment
- Patient and Family Engagement

Targeted Infection Prevention Strategies

- Catheter-Associated Urinary Tract Infection (CAUTI)
- Methicillin-Resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) Bacteremia
- *Clostridioides difficile* Infection (CDI)
- Central Line-Associated Bloodstream Infection (CLABSI)

CMS Updates

PUBLICATION OF THE PROPOSED RULE FOR CY 2020 ESRD PPS

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) recently announced the public display of the proposed rule for the calendar year (CY) 2020 end-stage renal disease (ESRD) prospective payment system (PPS), [available online](#) at the Federal Register. The CY 2020 ESRD PPS proposed rule includes proposed requirements for the End-Stage Renal Disease Quality Incentive Program (ESRD QIP) beginning with Payment Years (PYs) 2022 and 2023.

CMS welcomes public comment on these proposals. **The public comment period will be from July 29, 2019 to September 27, 2019.** Comments can be made on the CY 2020 ESRD PPS proposed rule using [regulations.gov](#) by searching for CMS-1713-P.

The Administrative Procedure Act prohibits CMS from answering any specific questions beyond details of the proposed policies or addressing your opinions about the proposed rule. CMS welcomes your comments through the formal comment submission process. Further information about the ESRD QIP is available at [CMS.gov](#).

ESRD QUALITY INCENTIVE PROGRAM PAYMENT YEAR 2020 PREVIEW PERIOD TO CLOSE AUGUST 23

The ESRD QIP PY 2020 Preview Period will close on **August 23, 2019 at 11:59 p.m. PT (August 24, 2019 at 2:59 a.m. EST)**. CMS recommends every facility log in to the [QualityNet Secure Portal](#) and complete the following two steps:

- Access and review their facility's Preview Performance Score Report (PSR), via the [QualityNet Secure Portal](#).
- Evaluate the need to submit questions to CMS, and if applicable, submit them prior to the conclusion of the PY 2020 Preview Period. This could include Clarification Question/s to better understand how the facility's specific score(s) were calculated; Systemic Clarification Question/s to inquire or inform CMS of issues that may apply to more than one facility; or a Formal Inquiry to address concerns about a facility's scores.

NOTE: CMS evaluates all Clarification Questions and Formal Inquiries. Facilities may continue to receive responses to their Questions and Inquiries in the QIP system after the close of the PY 2020 Preview Period. Necessary adjustments to facility measure scores are applied before finalizing Total Performance Scores and applicable payment reductions.

For additional information on accessing the ESRD QIP system, please view the [PY 2020 Basic User Manual for EQRS](#) or the [Guide to the PY 2020 ESRD QIP Performance Score Report \(PSR\)](#).

For further assistance regarding the information contained in this message, please contact the ESRD QIP Support Team using the [ESRD QIP Q&A Tool](#). If you have questions or concerns regarding use of the ESRD QIP system, please contact the QualityNet Help Desk at qnet-support-esrd@hcqis.org or (866) 288-8912 (7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. CT from Monday through Friday).

UPCOMING NHSN DIALYSIS EVENT SURVEILLANCE TRAINING WEBINARS

The National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) Dialysis Team will be providing three webinars in August for new and experienced NHSN users. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) subject matter experts will be available to answer your questions about NHSN Dialysis Event Surveillance via the live chat box feature.



Introduction to the NHSN Dialysis Event Surveillance Protocol: National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) Dialysis Event Surveillance reporting is required for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) End-Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) Quality Incentive Program (QIP). This session will provide a complete introduction to the NHSN Dialysis Event reporting requirements and the surveillance definitions necessary to complete accurate monthly reporting.

Tuesday, August 13: 3:00-4:00 p.m. EDT

[Pre-registration is required.](#)

[Join the meeting online.](#)

Participant Dial-In Number: 303.248.0285

Access Code: 6393927

Wednesday, August 14: 3:00-4:00 p.m. EDT

[Pre-registration is required.](#)

[Join the meeting online.](#)

Participant Dial-In Number: 303.248.0285

Access Code: 6393927

Advanced NHSN Dialysis Event Surveillance Reporting and Introduction to NHSN Reports : Learn how to apply National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) Dialysis Event Surveillance definitions through case studies that address common reporting questions. The session also will include an introduction to running and interpreting the most popular NHSN reports so you can review your facility's data, including Dialysis Event bloodstream infection rates.

Tuesday, August 20: 3:00-4:00 p.m. EDT

[Pre-registration is required.](#)

[Join the meeting online.](#)

Participant Dial-In Number: 303.248.0285

Access Code: 6393927

If you have any questions, please contact us at NHSN@cdc.gov with 'dialysis' in the subject line.

DHHS ISSUES MEMO ON PREMIUM WITHHOLDING ISSUES FOR SOME MEDICARE ADVANTAGE AND DRUG PROGRAMS

A memo from the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) describes an error that may impact some Medicare plan enrollees. [View the memo](#) for more information.

ICH CAHPS REMINDER AND RESOURCES

Remember to check the official web site for the [ICH CAHPS Survey](#) regularly for updated information about the ICH CAHPS Survey. Also, consider checking out the following resources:

- [Star Ratings Methodology](#)
- [2017 Fall and 2018 Spring National and State Averages](#)
- [Coefficients and Star Ratings for Results Posted on the DFC](#)

Upcoming Events

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF KIDNEY PATIENTS (AAKP) NATIONAL PATIENT MEETING

September 6-8, 2019
 Hyatt Regency on Capitol Hill
 Washington, DC

Celebrating this patient organization's 50th anniversary, the AAKP National Patient Meeting is the largest event of its kind in the U.S., providing both patients and care partners with access to the most accurate and timely disease information through direct interaction, educational sessions and an extensive exhibit hall. This year's meeting agenda will focus on relevant information critical to those impacted by kidney diseases and highlight the latest in research and innovations in the renal space. AAKP will host a diverse line-up of speakers crossing all sectors of the kidney community including the Federal government; the U.S. Congress, academia; industry; allied kidney organizations and associations; patients and other various stakeholders.

[Register today.](#)

ESRD Resources

SPECIAL EDITION OF *KCER WATCHNOW* AVAILABLE

The *KCER Watch* [June newsletter](#) is full of important information for facilities and patients coming into the Hurricane Season. The newsletter addresses the following topics.

- Preparation for the 2019 Hurricane Season
- Developing an Emergency Preparedness Plan
- Building an Emergency Kit
- Assembling Items for a Three-day Emergency Diet
- ESRD NCC Patient Grant Library
- Download for the *What If...* KCER Awareness Campaign



CLEAN HANDS COUNT MATERIALS NOW AVAILABLE IN SPANISH

The ESRD National Coordinating Center's (NCC) "Clean Hands Count" materials are now available in Spanish. [Download the Spanish versions.](#)

SHINGLES VACCINATION RESOURCES FROM QUALITY INSIGHTS

Quality Insights recently distributed an e-bulletin with the latest news and resources regarding shingles and the shingles vaccine. [Learn more.](#)

HEALTH LITERACY RESOURCES NOW AVAILABLE

The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) has a new section on [Health Literacy Frameworks and Models](#) on the Health Literacy Topic page of its website. You can also find resources to help you address each of the [10 Attributes of a Health Literate Organization](#).

KPAC OFFERS BROCHURE TO HELP GET THE WORD OUT ABOUT NEW DEPRESSION TOOLKIT

The Forum of ESRD Networks' Kidney Patient Advisory Council (KPAC) has developed a brochure to help market a new Depression Toolkit. The brochure provides an overview of the content and how to download the Toolkit from the Forum website. Please [share this brochure](#) - preferably in color, if possible - with your patients.



Brief Overview of the Toolkit's Contents

- Chapter One**
The emotional demands of dialysis
- Chapter Two**
Signs of anxiety and depression caused by overwhelming stress
- Chapter Three**
Do I need help?
Value & Dangers of Self Diagnostic Tools
- Chapter Four**
What type of help is out there?
- Chapter Five**
Picking a treatment provider and how to prepare for a mental health visit

To download a FREE full copy of the "DIALYSIS PATIENT DEPRESSION TOOLKIT" Please Visit: www.esrdnetworks.org/resources

The Forum of End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) Network's Kidney Patient Advisory Council (KPAC) has developed the Dialysis Depression Toolkit to help patients who feel they may be experiencing depression.

THE NATIONAL FORUM OF ESRD NETWORKS

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Pick up or download a copy of the **Dialysis Patient Depression Toolkit**
A 35-page booklet to help kidney patients deal with depression

KIDNEY PATIENT ADVISORY COUNCIL (KPAC)

HOME DIALYSIS CENTRAL ANNOUNCES NEW BLOG

[Home Dialysis Central](#) is an online resource for all matters related to home dialysis. You can subscribe to their informative blog, KidneyViews, to receive the latest professional viewpoints on important topics affecting the care provided to people with renal disease. Recent posts include:

- [Staff Orientation to Psychosocial Needs of People with Kidney Failure](#)
- [Who Will Dialyze "Complex Patients"?](#)

MEDICATION CONVERSION GUIDE NOW AVAILABLE

A Medication Conversion Guide was developed by members of the Medical Review Board for IPRO ESRD Network of New England (Network 1). The Forum's Medical Advisory Council (MAC) finalized and approved the Guide for national use by all dialysis facilities and providers.

The Guide was developed partly in response to concerns expressed by dialysis patients who did not receive their current medications while visiting other dialysis facilities.

This tool is intended to assist physicians to convert the dose of a medication a patient is currently receiving, to a substitute medication that is available, or less costly. Medications converted using this tool must be approved or ordered by the patient's Nephrologist, however, we encourage all care providers and patients to share this guide with their care teams.

[Download the free guide.](#)

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IMPORTANT NOTE:

This bi-weekly e-newsletter will serve as our primary method of communicating important news and updates. We encourage you to visit our Web site for the most up-to-date information or to contact us with questions, comments or suggestions.

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