



Quality  
Insights  
Renal Network 4



# Network 4 NEWS

*A Monthly Newsletter for Quality Insights Renal Network 4*

## STAY CONNECTED



## IN THIS ISSUE

President Signs Executive Order to Advance Kidney Health in America

Facility-led Patient Education Topic of the Month: Vocational Rehabilitation

17th Annual RSN Essay Contest Announced

CDC/STRIVE Announces Free Infection Control Training Courses

Updated Interim Infection Prevention and Control Recommendations for Measles in Healthcare Settings

CMS Updates

## GREETINGS FROM QUALITY INSIGHTS RENAL NETWORK 4

Welcome to the July issue of the Quality Insights Renal Network 4 e-newsletter. In this issue, we bring you information about an executive order to advance kidney health in America, information about vocational rehabilitation, upcoming webinar opportunities, CMS updates, upcoming events and more. We encourage you to [contact us](#) with any questions, concerns or suggestions.



## PRESIDENT SIGNS EXECUTIVE ORDER TO ADVANCE KIDNEY HEALTH IN AMERICA

On Wednesday, July 10, 2019 President Trump signed an executive order with goals to:

- Reduce the development of ESRD by 25% by 2030
- 80% of incident ESRD patients receive home dialysis or a preemptive kidney transplant by 2025
- Standardize organ procurement procedures to double the number of kidneys available for transplant by 2030
- Remove financial barriers for living kidney donors
- Encourage the development of the artificial kidney
- Restructure payment models to incentivize kidney disease prevention, home dialysis and transplantation

[Learn more.](#)

[Upcoming Events](#)

[ESRD Resources](#)

[Contact Us](#)

## 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](#)

## FACILITY-LED PATIENT EDUCATION TOPIC OF THE MONTH: VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION



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.

- What is Vocational Rehabilitation? ([English](#) / [Spanish](#))
- The Three Biggest Myths about Disability Benefits and Work ([English](#) / [Spanish](#))

## 17TH ANNUAL RSN ESSAY CONTEST ANNOUNCED

The Renal Support Network's (RSN) 17th Annual Essay Contest is now open for submissions. For 17 years, this contest has inspired many people and let them know they are not alone in the battle with kidney disease. This year the theme is *Kidney Warriors: How do you fight this battle and win?*



First, second and third place winners receive cash prizes. Winning essays and will be published online and in RSN's *Live&Give* magazine. First Prize: \$500, Second Prize: \$300, Third Prize: \$100. **Submissions are now open through August 10, 2019.**

Download the [flyer](#) or learn more on the [website](#).

## 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)

## 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.

## ESRD QUALITY INCENTIVE PROGRAM PAYMENT YEAR 2020 PREVIEW PERIOD NOW OPEN

The End-Stage Renal Disease Quality Incentive Program (ESRD QIP) Payment Year (PY) 2020 Preview Period **opened Monday, July 22, 2019 and will close on Friday, August 23, 2019 at 11:59 p.m. PT.**

Facilities should use this 30-day period to review their PSR and submit clarification questions or a formal inquiry. CMS recommends that facilities submit any clarification questions and/or systemic clarification questions in a timely manner in order to receive a response prior to the close of the preview period.

For further assistance regarding the [ESRD QIP Preview Period](#), please visit the [ESRD QIP](#) page at [www.QualityNet.org](http://www.QualityNet.org). Check out the [ESRD QIP Q&A Tool](#).

## UPCOMING NHSN DIALYSIS EVENT SURVEILLANCE TRAINING WEBINARS

The National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) Dialysis Team will be providing four 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

**Wednesday, August 21: 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](mailto: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

### SAVE THE DATES: NCC PEER CONNECTION CALLS

The ESRD National Coordinating Center (NCC) is hosting two upcoming national Peer Connection calls in the month of July which will focus on transplant, and caregiving. The calls are an informal opportunity to ask questions, speak to, and learn from individuals who made the decision to dialyze at home and/or seek a kidney transplant.

Calls are operator assisted and intended only for patients and family members. Events will be recorded and made available on the [NCC website](#) after the call.

Upcoming Peer Connection Call Dates:

- [Kidney Transplant Peer Connection Call](#) - Thursday, July 25, 2019
- [Kidney Caregiver Peer Connection Call](#) - Tuesday, July 30, 2019

## AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF KIDNEY PATIENTS (AAKP) NATIONAL PATIENT MEETING

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 WATCH* NOW 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



### 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 Content**

To download a **FREE** full copy of the **"DIALYSIS PATIENT DEPRESSION TOOLKIT"** Please Visit: [www.esrdnetworks.org/resources](http://www.esrdnetworks.org/resources)

The Forum of End State 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.

**Dialysis Patient Depression Toolkit**

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)

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## 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.

This material was prepared by Quality Insights Renal Network 4 under contract with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). The contents do not necessarily reflect CMS policy.

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