



Quality
Insights
Renal Network 4



Network 4 NEWS

A Monthly Newsletter for Quality Insights Renal Network 4

STAY CONNECTED



IN THIS ISSUE

Facility-led Patient Education
Topic of the Month:
Hemodialysis Vascular
Access

ESRD NCC Patient Grant
Library is Now Available

CDC Message: Increase in
Peritonitis Among Patients
Undergoing Peritoneal
Dialysis

2019 Vocational Rehabilitation
Innovation Challenge Update

17th Annual RSN Essay
Contest Announced

CMS Updates

Upcoming Events

GREETINGS FROM QUALITY INSIGHTS RENAL NETWORK 4

Welcome to the June issue of the Quality Insights Renal Network 4 e-newsletter. In this issue, we bring you an important message from the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC), information about hemodialysis vascular access, 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: HEMODIALYSIS VASCULAR ACCESS

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.

- Hemodialysis Vascular Access ([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](#)

ESRD NCC PATIENT GRANT LIBRARY IS NOW AVAILABLE

Do you know a patient who has an idea for providing education or advocacy to other kidney patients? Did you know that an individual can apply for a grant? The new ESRD National Coordinating Center (NCC) Patient Grant Library can help.

The Patient Grant Library is a user-friendly resource for identifying credible funding sources. It highlights a range of opportunities, including:

- Traditional government and private foundation grants
- Crowdfunding resources, such as Plumford and HelpHopeLive
- Unique, talent-based grant sources awarded by the Awesome Foundation

The Patient Grant Library also includes an *Introduction to the Internet* tutorial for individuals who are newer to the online world. The first tutorial, *Internet Basics*, is available on the website. The second, which focuses on Internet privacy and safety, will be available later this month. There is even a section devoted to avoiding fraud and scams. The resources of the Patient Grant Library help users understand how to keep personal information safe online and provide tips on avoiding fraud and scams.

Help support your patient's ideas for supporting others. Refer them to the ESRD NCC Patient Grant Library so they can find a grant for their ideas. Visit the [Patient Grant Library](#) today.

CDC MESSAGE: INCREASE IN PERITONITIS AMONG PATIENTS UNDERGOING PERITONEAL DIALYSIS

Two health departments and CDC are investigating a cluster of peritonitis cases among patients undergoing peritoneal dialysis. Many of the peritonitis events under investigation were caused by *Serratia marcescens* or other gram-negative pathogens.

The CDC Dialysis Safety Team is requesting U.S. clinicians to please report peritonitis cases in peritoneal dialysis patients treated by the same center that meet the following criteria:

- Two or more patients with peritonitis caused by *Serratia* spp. at the same center since January 1, 2019, or
- An increase in peritonitis caused by gram-negative organisms at the center

To contact the CDC, please email the Dialysis Coalition email box DialysisCoalition@cdc.gov and Dr. Ana Cecilia Bardossy at ABardossy@cdc.gov using the subject line: "Peritonitis cases". Include in your email your name and contact information,

2019 VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION INNOVATION CHALLENGE UPDATE



Congratulations to the winner and runner-up of this year's Vocational Rehabilitation Innovation Challenge!

FMC Allentown submitted its facility's innovative efforts for increasing vocational rehabilitation referrals and the utilization of Vocational Rehabilitation referrals and received the most votes. A very close runner-up is **FMC Milford**.

Both facilities have another opportunity to win a prize putting their innovative ideas up against those ideas submitted by facilities in Networks 3, 5, 8, and 11.

[Please cast your vote for your favorite innovative idea by June 21.](#)

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](#).

CMS Updates

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](#)

NEW CHANGES TO NHSN DIALYSIS COMPONENT

Changes have been made to the NHSN Dialysis Component and are featured below. To [view all NHSN changes](#), please view the entire document under the NHSN Release Schedule/Q2-2019.

Analysis and Reporting:

1. Updated dialysis aggregate data from 2016 to 2017 data for dialysis ratetables and run charts.
2. Created a new TAP report type and changed report icon for Excess Infections. A new Excess Infections report type allows for modifications to the TAP report without disturbing functionality used by other NHSN components.
3. In 2018, the Dialysis Component began collecting data using an Acute Kidney Injury (AKI) location. Now that some data have been collected, we are including data reported to that AKI location in dialysis rate tables and run charts so facilities and groups can review AKI-specific rates for the various dialysis event measures.

NEW MEDICARE CARD NOW AVAILABLE FOR PATIENTS

CMS recently finished mailing new Medicare cards. The new cards without Social Security numbers offer better identity protection. Help protect your patient's personal identity by getting their new Medicare Beneficiary Identifier and using it for Medicare business, including claims submission and eligibility transactions. Give the [Get Your New Medicare Card flyer](#) to patients who do not have a new card.

Upcoming Events

ONLINE OPPORTUNITY FOR FREE NURSING CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDITS

The national Home Health Quality Improvement (HHQI) campaign is hosting a free opportunity for online nursing continuing education (CE) credits. *Engaging Caregivers as Partners* will discuss the changing role of caregiving in a value-based environment. Explore the need to engage and leverage the caregiver as part of the health care team to improve outcomes and quality of life. To be eligible for the nursing continuing education credit(s), the learner must complete each portion of the educational course. The continuing education credits are valid for this course through 04/18/2021.

[Learn more and register.](#)

WEBINAR OPPORTUNITY: THE SWEET SPOT OF PATIENT ENGAGEMENT - CREATING HEALTHCARE PARTNERSHIPS THAT REALLY WORK

Tuesday, June 25, 2019

3:00 to 4:00 p.m. ET

Engaging patients and their family members/other caregivers improves patient experience, satisfaction, safety and quality of care. Actively involving patients and family members not only at the level of direct care but also in designing and re-designing how care is delivered as well as organization governance can provide real benefit to healthcare organizations and their staff.

Please join us on **Tuesday, June 25 at 3:00 pm ET/2:00 pm CT** for a presentation by Christine Bechtel, a consumer advocate with expertise in delivery system improvement, including patient and family engagement (PFE), and Charles and Rita Pascale, who will provide the patient and family member perspective. Ms. Bechtel will discuss how to think broadly about PFE and provide practical recommendations about how to operationalize PFE in an organization.



Bechtel

Registration

Registration is required, so please [register today](#). Once registered you will receive a confirmation email which will contain the login details.

Target Audience

If you are a physician, nurse, pharmacist or other health care team member in the states of Delaware, Louisiana, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia who works to improve care coordination, we encourage you to register today for this informative program.

WEBINAR OPPORTUNITY: VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION WORKS FOR YOU AND YOUR QUALITY OF LIFE

June 27, 2019

2:00 p.m. ET

Dialysis Patient Citizens Education Center's will be hosting a webinar titled *Vocational Rehabilitation Works for You and Your Quality of Life!* During the webinar, Elizabeth Jones, MSW, LCSW will discuss:

- The benefits of working, furthering your education, training, volunteering and remaining active
- How these benefits can increase the likelihood of receiving a kidney transplant and decrease depression
- About work incentives for Social Security Disability Insurance and Medicaid recipients

[Register and sign up](#) for call details.

[Print out the flyer.](#)

SAVE THE DATE: NATIONAL HOME DIALYSIS PEER CONNECTION CALL

The ESRD NCC is hosting a national Home Dialysis Peer Connection Call on **Thursday, July 11, from 3:00 to 4:00 p.m. ET**. This call is for patients and family members who are thinking about a home dialysis treatment option. This is an informal opportunity for in-center hemodialysis patients and their family members to ask questions, speak to, and learn from individuals who made the decision to dialyze at home. The call is operator assisted and **intended only for patients and family members**. The event will be recorded and available on the NCC website after the call.

[Review this flyer](#) with your PAC SMEs and dialysis facilities in your Network service area to encourage patients and family members to attend the call. This year we heard from all of the Affinity Groups about the value of patients learning from and connecting with other patients. The

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 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



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

To download a **FREE** full copy of the **"DIALYSIS PATIENT DEPRESSION TOOLKIT"** Please Visit: 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.

THE NATIONAL FORUM OF ESRD NETWORKS

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.

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