



Quality Incentive Program: What does it mean to me?

Quality Insights Renal Network 4 is the End-Stage Renal Disease Network for Pennsylvania and Delaware. We are here as your source for support, guidance and information.

Network 4 Staff

Tish Lawson
Executive Director

Quality Improvement:

Kou Kha-Moua
Quality Improvement Director

Jeannette Shrift
Quality Improvement
Coordinator

Patient Services:

Paul Gordon
Patient Services Director

Deborah Knight
Patient Services Coordinator

CROWNWeb, Forms and Data:

Karen Hricak
Data Manager

Michael Eckerle
Office Manager

**610 Freedom Business Center,
Suite 102
King of Prussia, PA 19406
(610) 265-2418
(800) 548-9205 (Patient Line)
www.qirn4.org**

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) administers the **End-Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) Quality Incentive Program (QIP)** to promote high-quality services in outpatient dialysis facilities treating patients with ESRD. The ESRD QIP adjusts payment for dialysis services by measuring how well dialysis facilities provide care. Medicare pays less to facilities that give low-quality care. This way of paying for medical care is called “value-based purchasing.” The ESRD QIP was the first Medicare program to use value-based purchasing with the hope that it will reduce health care costs while improving medical care for patients with ESRD.

In 2015, Medicare will grade dialysis centers based on:

- Vascular accesses to make sure patients are not using catheters
- Dialysis adequacy to ensure patients get thorough treatments
- Bloodstream infection rates in hemodialysis patients
- Re-hospitalization rates
- Calcium levels

Dialysis centers will also have to report on bone mineral metabolism and anemia to make sure a patient’s bones remain strong and blood cells stay healthy. Medicare will also hold dialysis facilities accountable for sponsoring two satisfaction surveys in 2015. The surveys, called the *In-Center Hemodialysis Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (ICH-CAHPS)* survey, will be standardized, hosted by a third-party vendor and completely confidential as mandated by federal law.

The foundation, principles, and mechanisms guiding the ESRD QIP will remain the same over time, but the program’s specific quality measures, standards, weights and formulas will change from year to year as improvement goals are reached and patient needs change over time. Visit www.cms.org to learn more.

Should you need to file a grievance, please contact Quality Insights Renal Network 4 (QIRN4) on the Toll Free Patient Line: 1-800-548-9205, dknight@nw4.esrd.net, www.qirn4.org or 630 Freedom Business Center, Suite 116, King of Prussia, PA 19406. This material was prepared by QIRN4 under contract #HHSM-500-2013-NW004C with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). The contents do not necessarily reflect CMS policy. Publication No. ESRD4-033115b