



March 27, 2018

The Honorable Lynn Jenkins  
House of Representatives  
1526 Longworth Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Jenkins,

The Alliance for Home Dialysis (Alliance) is pleased to support your legislation, H.R.3635, the Local Coverage Determination Clarification Act, which would revise the process by which Medicare Administrative Contractors (MACs) issue and reconsider Local Coverage Determinations (LCDs).

The Alliance is a coalition of kidney dialysis stakeholders, representing patients, clinicians, providers, and industry that works to promote policies that facilitate treatment choice for individuals in need of dialysis, and to address systemic barriers that limit access to the many benefits of home dialysis. Many patients on dialysis, both in center and home, benefit from a schedule of more frequent dialysis, which is comprised of shorter, more frequent sessions. More frequent dialysis makes a significant tangible clinical difference for patients, and has been cited in clinical evidence as the cause for many health-related quality of life improvements. Studies have demonstrated that more frequent hemodialysis results in faster recovery time after treatment and fewer side effects; improved cardiac status and survival rates; and increased opportunity for rehabilitation. Importantly, these benefits are seen in patients with end stage renal disease (ESRD) suffering from both acute and chronic conditions. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has stated that Medicare will reimburse more frequent dialysis so long as it is medically justified.

While some MACs have been inconsistent about reimbursement for more frequent dialysis, more of them had been honoring the provider-patient relationship and covering additional sessions of dialysis as they were medically justified. However, in recent months, the majority of MACs have issued identical LCDs that would limit access to more frequent dialysis, which contradicts CMS' long-standing coverage policy.

We appreciate that H.R 3635 would provide transparency and accountability to the MACs currently serving Medicare beneficiaries. This legislation would go a long way to ensure patients, and providers, would have access to treatment options that dramatically improve health outcomes. Once again, we are pleased to support this initiative and look forward to continuing to work with you as the bill moves through the legislative process. If you have any questions, please contact Michael Spira at [michael@homedialysisalliance.org](mailto:michael@homedialysisalliance.org) or 202-466-8700.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Silverman  
Executive Director



**Participating Organizations (2018)**

American Association of Kidney Patients  
American Nephrology Nurses Association  
American Society of Nephrology  
American Society of Pediatric Nephrology  
Baxter  
Cleveland Clinic  
DaVita  
DEKA Research and Development  
Dialysis Clinic, Inc  
Dialysis Patient Citizens  
Fresenius Medical Care  
Greenfield Health Systems  
Home Dialyzors United  
International Society for Peritoneal Dialysis, North American Chapter  
Medical Education Institute  
National Kidney Foundation  
Northwest Kidney Centers  
NxStage Medical  
Outset Medical, LLC  
Renal Physicians Association  
Satellite Healthcare  
Southwest Kidney Institute  
The Rogosin Institute  
TNT Moborg International Ltd.