



## August Monthly Update

### **Regulatory Updates**

#### ***2019 ESRD PPS Rule Reiterates the Necessity for Home Modality Education***

As a reminder, CMS released the Calendar Year 2019 ESRD PPS Rule on July 11<sup>th</sup>. The full rule can be viewed [here](#). In the rule, CMS expressed concern that not all dialysis patients are aware of or give the opportunity to learn about home dialysis. The Alliance plans to express our support for KDE expansion in our comment letter.

#### ***CMS Proposes to Implement the CHRONIC Act to Maximize Benefits for Patients***

CMS also released the 2019 Physician Fee Schedule – it can be viewed at [this link](#). Specifically, CMS states that they plan to revise current regulations to allow the renal dialysis facility and home to be Medicare originating sites for the purpose of the home dialysis monthly ESRD-related clinical assessment, amend current regulations to reflect that there will be no originating site facility fee paid when the originating site is the home, and specify that geographic requirements do not apply with respect to telehealth services furnished after 1/1/19 in certain originating sites including dialysis facilities and the home. This telehealth revision was a priority of the Alliance's in the CHRONIC Act and we are pleased to CMS implement it.

*The Alliance is in the process of drafting both comment letters and will circulate the letters for member review in the coming days.*

### **Alliance Activities**

#### ***PFS and PPS Rules Working Group Call***

The Alliance's Accountability and Reimbursement Working Group held a call on Wednesday, August 1<sup>st</sup> to discuss both the PFS and PPS Rules. Thank you to the members that have provided valuable insight into our comment letters this year.

#### ***Alliance Discusses Benefits of MFD to AHRQ***

On July 26, the Alliance made a submission in response to the AHRQ draft Technology Assessment Report, "End Stage Renal Disease in the Medicare Population".

We were pleased to be able to showcase the academic literature that demonstrates the potential for improved outcomes by more frequent dialysis.

The deadline for submissions has been extended to August 15<sup>th</sup>. Invited peer review comments and public review comments will be publicly posted on the [TA Program Web site](#) within 3 months after the associated final report is posted on this Web site. The report authors' responses to the comments (the "disposition of comments") will be posted on the same Web page as the associated comments.

## **Member Updates**

### ***Home Dialyzors United Elects New President***

Alliance member Home Dialyzors United has elected Nichole Johnson as their new President. We thank outgoing President Denise Eilers and look forward to working with Ms. Johnson. Johnson has volunteered regularly for other Alliance members including ASN, AAKP, and NKF. A full press release is attached.

## **Home Dialysis in the News**

AAKP Advances Efforts On Employment And Kidney Disease, The Virginian Pilot:  
[https://pilotonline.com/business/jobs/article\\_dbea8be8-98a7-57b1-a8a4-8b221c607449.html](https://pilotonline.com/business/jobs/article_dbea8be8-98a7-57b1-a8a4-8b221c607449.html)

Improving PD delivery, outcomes depends on program size, other factors, Nephrology News & Issues:  
<https://www.healio.com/nephrology/home-dialysis/news/print/nephrology-news-and-issues/%7Be1f1a7d4-f77c-4ec3-91cd-ece2b5e4beef%7D/improving-pd-delivery-outcomes-depends-on-program-size-other-factors>

## **Upcoming ESRD Network Events**

Date: 8/21-22/18

Event: CentraCare Health Nephrology Nursing Certification Course

Network: 11 (MN, MI, ND, SD, WI)

Link: <http://midwestkidneynetwork.org/events/centracare-health-nephrology-nursing-certification-course>

Date: 8/28/18

Event: LAN QIA D: Positively Impact the Quality of Life of the ESRD Patient with a Focus on Pain Management

Network: 1 (CT, ME, MA, NH, RI, VT)

Link: <http://network1.esrd.ipro.org/events/>

Date: 9/18/18

Event: QIA B: Positively Impact the Quality of Life of the ESRD Patient with a Focus on Mental Health

Network: 1 (CT, ME, MA, NH, RI, VT)

Link: <http://network1.esrd.ipro.org/events/>

Date: 9/25/18

Event: QIA C: Support Gainful Employment of ESRD Patients

Network: 1 (CT, ME, MA, NH, RI, VT)

Link: <http://network1.esrd.ipro.org/events/>

Date: 10/3/18

Event: Network 3 Annual Meeting

Network: 3 (NJ, PR, USVI)

Link: <https://www.qirn3.org/Annual-Meeting.aspx>

Date: 10/30/18

Event: 6th Annual ANNA/IPRO ESRD Fall Educational Meeting

Network: 1 (CT, ME, MA, NH, RI, VT)

Link: <http://network1.esrd.ipro.org/events/>

