



September Monthly Update

Regulatory Updates

CMS ESRD Survey Memo Supports Home Modality

On August 10th, CMS' Center for Clinical Standards and Quality (CCSQ) sent a survey memo to the state survey directors regarding "Initial Surveys of End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) Facilities." The full memo is attached – of interest to members, the memo stated:

- CMS will no longer require that an onsite survey be routinely conducted when an existing ESRD facility requests an expansion of services for:
 - In-center nocturnal hemodialysis; This service, which will be provided during extended hours, is considered to be a part of the already approved in-center hemodialysis modality and must operate under the same regulatory expectations. (The provider must provide documentation clarifying how the water system will be maintained (e.g. disinfection and rinsing) with the extended hours; and
 - In-center peritoneal dialysis (PD) if the program is already approved for Home PD Training and Support; This service is considered to be part of the already approved modality and must operate under the same regulatory expectations.

Revised State Survey Agency ESRD Manual

CCSQ also released "Revisions to the State Operations Manual (SOM), Chapter 2, End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) Program" on August 10th. The full memo is attached to this update. These revisions include edits to home training, home dialysis in a nursing home, and qualification of providers.

Alliance Activities

Innovation Caucus Requests Alliance Feedback

Representatives Mike Kelly (R-PA), Ron Kind (D-WI), Markwayne Mullin (R-OK), and Ami Bera (D-CA) formed a bipartisan Health Care Innovation Caucus in the U.S. House of Representatives to advance a legislative agenda that encourages innovative policy ideas to improve the quality of care and lower costs for consumers. The Alliance sent a letter in response to a request for information from the caucus. The letter is attached, but some highlights include: expanding Kidney Disease Education, support for more-frequent dialysis, and the creation of a home dialysis patient experience survey.

Alliance Steering Committee Call

The Alliance for Home Dialysis hosted its monthly Steering Committee call on August 27th to discuss upcoming regulatory meetings and priorities.

Follow the Alliance on Social Media

In an effort to boost the Alliance's reach to lawmakers, patients, and potential members, we are developing a stronger social media presence and strategy. Please follow the Alliance at the links below:

[Twitter](#)

[Facebook](#)

Home Dialysis in the News

CMS releases new rules on dialysis care in nursing homes, Nephrology News & Issues:
<https://www.healio.com/nephrology/policy-and-politics/news/online/%7Bc9d6a7c9-8e9c-43b1-b04d-7eafef762f88%7D/cms-releases-new-rules-on-dialysis-care-in-nursing-homes>

The Dialysis Less Traveled By, Managed Care Magazine:
<https://www.managedcaremag.com/archives/2018/8/dialysis-less-traveled>

Upcoming ESRD Network 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/>

