



September Mid-Month Update

Alliance Activities

Telehealth “Win” for the Alliance and Home Dialysis

The Alliance submitted the CY19 Physician Fee Schedule Letter to CMS. The letter is attached. In the letter, the Alliance highlighted the need for:

- Expansion of KDE
- Reevaluation of Misvalued Codes

The letter also commended CMS for the telehealth implantation made possible through the CHRONIC Care Act – a main legislative priority for the Alliance.

Alliance Requests Kidney Disease Education Expansion from CMS

The Alliance submitted our CY19 ESRD Prospective Payment System (PPS) comment letter to CMS. The letter is attached. Our main asks to CMS were:

- The Alliance recommends that CMS focus State Surveyors on assuring that providers are adhering to the existing ESRD Conditions for Coverage requirement for a facility attestation in each in-center patient’s care plan as to why home is not an appropriate modality for that patient.
- The Alliance recommends that CMS expand the Kidney Disease Education benefit by waiving the Medicare co-pay and designating KDE as a preventive service.
- The Alliance recommends clarifying any outstanding issues caused by language in the 2017 ESRD PPS Rule relating to additional dialysis sessions by encouraging all Medicare Administrative Contractors (MACs) to follow CMS’s Medicare Program Integrity Manual and the intent of Congress to assure that the maximum number of patients are utilizing home dialysis and transplantation.

CMS Expands Dialysis Accreditation

Through the CHRONIC Care Act, dialysis facilities now have the ability to be Medicare certified through a CMS “Accreditation Organization” application process. The first organization, National Dialysis Accreditation Commission (NDAC) submitted an application. The Alliance requested CMS continue to follow previously issued guidance to protect home-only programs. Our letter is attached.

Alliance Steering Committee Meeting

The Alliance for Home Dialysis hosted its quarterly in-person Steering Committee call on September 11th to discuss upcoming legislative and 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](#)

Regulatory Update

Dialyze Direct APM "Actionable" – PTAC

The Physician-Focused Payment Model Technical Advisory Committee (PTAC), which is a tool for new, "Alternative Payment Models" (APM) met on September 6th and discussed a APM *"for Improved Quality and Cost in Providing Home Hemodialysis to Geriatric Patients Residing in Skilled Nursing Facilities"* submitted by Dialyze Direct. The proposal was "recommended to the Secretary for attention." This recommendation is a new outcome from PTAC – the Alliance will monitor any developments and update our members.

Member Updates

Congressional Briefing on Kidney Care

Alliance Member, ASN, will be hosting a congressional briefing entitled, *"The Vital Public-Private Partnership in Kidney Care: Advancing Care, Research & Innovation for Individuals with Kidney Diseases, Kidney Failure and Transplants"* on Friday, September 28th at 12:30 p.m. in 2045 Rayburn HOB. A formal invitation is attached.

Home Dialysis in the News

Dialyze Direct to acquire Affiliated Dialysis Centers, Nephrology News & Issues:

<https://www.healio.com/nephrology/kidney-care-community/news/online/%7b7964f5ec-2ce5-4338-9720-a2b8916fd992%7d/dialyze-direct-to-acquire-affiliated-dialysis-centers>

Kidney care clinic opens in North Greenbush, Troy Record:

<http://www.troyrecord.com/article/TR/20180913/NEWS/180919922>

Upcoming ESRD Network 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/>

