



As you remember, in the fall and winter of 2017-2018, all Medicare Administrative Contractors (MACs) responsible for administering dialysis claims proposed what are called Local Coverage Determinations (LCDs) that would have significantly restricted coverage for hemodialysis sessions prescribed for patients at frequencies above three times per week (more frequent hemodialysis). The response from so many within the dialysis community, including you, was overwhelming. Thank you for sharing your positive experiences with more frequent home hemodialysis last year.

I am pleased to share that your voice – together with nearly 2,000 others, including friends and loved ones, transplanted patients, caregivers, neighbors, doctors and nurses – made a difference! Within the past few weeks, all but one of the MACs have posted their final LCDs, and they seem to be favorable and even include language that supports continued coverage and payment of more frequent hemodialysis when medically necessary.

Medicare representatives and your Members of Congress appreciate receiving public comments because it helps them to better understand the impact of their decisions on real patients, like you. So, from all of us at the Alliance for Home Dialysis, thank you! We appreciate your willingness to tell the policymakers and officials how important more frequent hemodialysis is to you, how it has improved your health and the difference that it makes in your life or the life of a loved one.

While we're happy to be able to share that progress has been made, the new LCDs do contain some confusing language that requires additional review and conversations to be sure that they are fully supportive of medically-justified, more frequent hemodialysis. Given how hard so many, like you, have fought to preserve patient access to the benefits of more frequent hemodialysis, we will not rest until we are confident that the changes we all fought for actually have been made. Once we have a more thorough understanding of the full impact to patients and providers, we will share that information with you and we may need your help again.

We are humbled by your ongoing interest in and support of this important issue, and thank you once again for sharing your experiences and opinions with the decision makers in Washington.

Best in health,

Elizabeth Lee  
Alliance for Home Dialysis

*NOTE: This message has been sent to you as an advocate who submitted comments re. the MAC LCD through the online advocacy center and you opted to receive future communications from the Alliance for Home Dialysis.*