2023 Forum of ESRD Networks
Annual Meeting

December 7, 2023

The webinar will begin momentarily…
• Please keep your microphone muted unless you are participating in the discussion.

• If you would like to ask a question, you may use the Chat function.

• This session is being recorded and will be available, along with the slide deck, after the webinar.
A *survey link* to an evaluation will be included in the email you receive after the webinar.

We would very much appreciate your feedback.
2023 Forum of ESRD Networks Annual Meeting

December 7, 2023
Today's Presenters

Kam Kalantar-Zadeh, MD, MPH, PhD
President, Forum of ESRD Networks

Mary Baliker
Interim Co-Chair, Kidney Patient Advisory Council (KPAC)

Vicky Cash, MBA, BSN, RN
Chair, Executive Director Advisory Council (EDAC)

Dan Landry, DO, FASN
Chair, Medical Advisory Council (MAC)

Stephanie (Hutchinson) Counter, MBA
Treasurer
Puerto Rico and Virgin Islands are part of Network 3
Hawaii, Guam, American Samoa are part of Network 17
The 18 ESRD Network Contracts and Affiliates (2021-2026)
All ESRD Networks are members of the Forum of ESRD Networks, which is a not-for-profit organization that advocates on behalf of its membership and coordinates projects and activities of mutual interest to ESRD Networks. The Forum facilitates the flow of information and advances a national quality agenda with CMS and other renal organizations.

The **MISSION** of the Forum is to support and advocate on behalf of the ESRD Networks in promoting methods to improve the quality of care to patients with renal disease.

**CORE VALUES:**
- Volunteerism
- Collaboration
- Innovation and Flexibility
- Spread of Knowledge
- Integrity
- Autonomy of Individual ESRD Networks
- Person (Patient & Family) Centeredness
• Assisting the Networks
• Council Activities: MAC, EDAC KPAC
• Regular Communication with CMS
• Quality Conference Webinars
• Facilitate flow of information between the Forum and Network Staff/BOD/MRB/PAC
• Relationships with other organizations (i.e., RHA, RPA, LDOs, NKF, AAKP, CDC, ASN, KHI, etc.)
Elbert P. Tuttle, Jr.  
(1976-1978)  
Robert J. Soberman  
(1978-1980)  
Frederick Westervelt  
(1980-1982)  
Dominick E. Gentile, MD  
(1982-1984)  
William W. Pfaff, MD  
(1984-1986)  
Sidney Baskin  
(1986-1989)  
John L. Bengfort, MD  
(1989-1992)  
John D. Bower, MD  
Louis H. Diamond, MB, ChB, FACP  
(1994-1998)  
Jay B. Wish, MD  
(1998-2001)  
Alan S. Kliger, MD  
(2001-2004)  
Derrick L. Latos, MD, MACP  
(2004-2006)  
Richard S. Goldman, MD  
(2006-2009)  
Cynthia Kristensen, MD  
(2009-2011)  
Klemens Meyer, MD  
(2011-2012)  
Andrew D. Howard, MD, FACP  
(2012-2015)  
John Wagner, MD, MBA  
Donald Molony, MD  
(2017-2019)  
Ralph Atkinson III, MD  
(2019-2021)  
David Henner, DO  
(2021-2023)  
Kam Kalantar-Zadeh, MD, MPH, PhD  
(2023-Present)
Executive Committee:
President: Kam Kalantar-Zadeh, MD, MPH, PhD
President-Elect: Dan Landry, DO, FASN
Past President: David Henner, DO
Treasurer: Stephanie Hutchinson, MBA
Secretary: Chris Brown
MAC Chair: Dan Landry, DO, FASN
MAC Vice-Chair: Preethi Yerram, MD, MS, FASN
EDAC Chair: Vicky Cash, MBA, BSN, RN
EDAC Vice-Chair: Mary Albin, BS, CPHQ
KPAC Co-Chair: Dawn Edwards
Interim KPAC Co-Chair: Mary Baliker

Members-at-Large:
Christine Logar, MD, FASN
Kelly M. Mayo, MS
Keith Norris, MD PhD
Stephen Pastan, MD
Maria Regnier, MSN, RN, CNN
Dee LeDuc
Debra Hain, PhD, APRN, AGPCNP-BC, FAAN, FAANP, FNKF

Ad Hoc:
Andrew Howard, MD, FACP
Donald Molony, MD
John Wagner, MD, MBA

Emeritus:
Louis Diamond, MB, ChB, FACP, FCP (SA)
Welcome New Board Members

Dee LeDuc
• Executive Director, Midwest Kidney Network (ESRD Network 11)
• Former Coordinator, Forum of ESRD Networks
• Executive Director Advisory Council liaison to the Kidney Patient Advisory Council
• Secretary, Board of Directors, Superior Health Quality Alliance

Debra Hain, PhD, APRN, AGPCNP-BC, FAAN, FAANP, FNKF
• Member, Forum Medical Advisory Council
• Adult/gerontological nurse practitioner and psychiatric mental health nurse practitioner
• Tenured professor and DNP program director at Florida Atlantic University, College of Nursing
• Peer Reviewer, American Journal of Nursing
• Active with numerous organizations, including but not limited to the National Kidney Foundation, the Gerontological Advanced Practice Nurses’ Association, the American Nurses Association, and the American Nephrology Nurses Association
Forum Leadership Calls & Meetings

Forum Executive Committee:
• Monthly conference calls

Forum Board of Directors:
• Quarterly conference calls
• 2023 Meetings: March 7 & 10 (virtual); September 22-23, 2023 (Denver, CO)

CMS/Forum Leadership Calls
• Monthly conference calls
• In-person meetings at CMS Quality Conference (2020, no in-person meeting in 2021, 2022, or 2023)

Medical Advisory Council (MAC)
• Quarterly conference calls
• Annual MAC Meeting: November 1, 2023 (Philadelphia, PA)

Executive Director Advisory Council (EDAC)
• Monthly conference calls
• Meeting with CMS & Division of Kidney Health/iQIIG Leaders
• Periodic calls with FMC, DaVita, RHA

Kidney Patient Advisory Council (KPAC)
• Monthly conference calls
Highlights from September 22-23, 2023, Meeting in Denver, CO

- Open Session
  - President’s Hot Topics including 50 years of ESRD, the California Dialysis Council annual conference and dialysis patient and facility trends (including facility closures)
  - Implicit Bias and Impact on Kidney Care – Keith Norris, MD
  - KPAC Report and Dawn’s Hot Topics, including obesity and dialysis, adequacy measures, vascular access, and dialysis staffing shortages – Dawn Edwards
  - Practicing Health Equity, and Forum Toolkits – Dan Landry, DO, FASN, and Dawn Edwards
Highlights from September 2023 Meeting in Denver, CO

• Online Hemodiafiltration – George Aronoff, MD
  • Dr. Aronoff provided a deeper understanding of HDF technology as compared to standard HD.
  • He shared a 2023 meta-analysis study comparing HDF to HD, as well as the 2023 CONVINCE study which showed improvement in mortality over time with HDF.
  • He discussed the potential for improved quality of life for patients in HDF.
• ESRD PPS QIP Proposed Rule and Update to the ETC – Andy Howard, MD

• Dr. Howard shared information on the 2024 Proposed Rule and the Forum’s comments, including but not limited to:
  • Transitional payment for new and innovative technology, including the Buzzy Pro to control pain during needle insertion for HD,
  • Changes to the low volume payment adjustment,
  • Comments re: “time on machine” so that facilities are not penalized by providing more time on the machine or extra supplies to patients,
  • The new health equity measures to which facilities must attest, and
  • Concerns that CMS will keep the COVID vaccination measure at 90% for patients and staff now that the CDC’s definition of “up-to-date” has changed.

• Shared the goals of the ETC which include:
  • Greater use of home dialysis and transplantation
  • Reduction in Medicare spending
  • Preserving/enhancing quality of care
  • Addressing health equity

• Also discussed payment adjustments and achievement benchmarks.
Strategic Planning Priorities and Updates

• Strategic Partnerships
  • Continued collaboration with CMS, NKF, RPA, and other stakeholders
  • Continued development of new toolkits and updates to existing toolkits

• Board Development
  • Began development of member questionnaire to gauge areas of interest/expertise

• Customer Outreach, Sharing, & Engagement
  • Implemented social media plan for 2023
  • Grew social media audience
  • Posted *Forum Matters* to the Forum website

• Resource Identification
  • Continued work on fundraising plan to diversify revenue sources
  • Established the Derek Forfang Memorial Fund to support KPAC activities
DHHS/CMS Organizational Chart:
Regularly scheduled calls to discuss programmatic/strategic issues:

- Anita Monteiro, Director, iQuality Improvement & Innovation Group (iQIIG)
- Shane Illies, Deputy Director, iQIIG
- Vacant, CMS Chief Medical Officer for Quality Improvement
- Shalon Quinn, Special Advisor – Data Initiatives
- Melissa Dorsey, Director, Division of Kidney Health, iQIIG
- Ann Turner, Acting Deputy Director, Division of Kidney Health, iQIIG
- Mitzi Christ, Regional Program Manager, Division of Kidney Health, iQIIG
- CORs, ARAs, Central Office staff

2023 Calls: 2/13, 4/17, 6/12, 7/10, 8/14, 9/11, 12/11
Highlights from 2023

• CMS/Forum leadership calls moved from every other month to monthly to allow for more frequent interaction.
• The November leadership call served as a memorial for Board member and KPAC co-chair Derek Forfang, with many sharing their memories and condolences.
• Ann Turner has been named Acting Deputy Director of DKH; Melissa Dorsey will remain Director of DKH for at least one year.
• The Forum and CMS discussed the Network obesity measure throughout the 2nd quarter. Dr. Kalantar presented data on the “obesity paradox,” which has strong data to support it; higher BMI in dialysis patients demonstrates survival advantages.
• Involuntary discharge and the Second Chance Program were discussed; of the 18 ESRD Networks, 8 have Second Chance Programs, 3 have similar programs, and 7 have no programs.
• The Forum shared information on its numerous toolkits, including the newly updated home dialysis toolkit and upcoming health equity toolkit.
• Discussion continued on staffing shortages. Of note, for the first time in its 50-year history, more dialysis facilities are closing vs. opening.
• The Forum has requested to have further discussions about the QIP measures and the Performance Score Certificates.
• Dr. Howard continued to share transplant metrics, including new data on high KDPI kidneys showing benefits for pre-emptive transplants.
• Mr. Brown continued to share COVID updates, noting data lags making it difficult to track the current vaccination status of patients.
What Else Has the Forum Been Doing?

- The Forum established the Derek Forfang Memorial Fund in memory of KPAC Co-Chair Derek Forfang. Donations will support KPAC activities and can be made at https://esrdnetworks.org/donate/.
- The Forum released an updated Home Dialysis Toolkit in August, available at https://esrdnetworks.org/toolkits/professional-toolkits/home-dialysis-toolkit/. Members of the MAC are currently working on a Health Equity Toolkit, which will be available in 2024.
- The Forum hosted its first-ever Open Session at its September Board meeting. Over 65 individuals attended virtually or in-person, including Network staff, MAC and KPAC members, and CMS colleagues.
- In August, the Forum submitted comments to CMS on the 2024 Proposed Rule. Comments can be read in full at https://media.esrdnetworks.org/documents/Attachment1_ForumofESRDNetworksCMS1782PCommentsAugust2023.pdf
- Two new Sharing Highly Effective Practices (SHEP) initiatives have been approved and posted to the Forum website at https://esrdnetworks.org/education/sharing-highly-effective-practices-in-the-kidney-community/approved-highly-effective-practices/. More highly effective practices are in review.
• P. Bologna. Transplant Living Community Ambassador. Henry Ford Health. (Ongoing)
• P. Gee. National Kidney Foundation Central Virginia Lunch and Learn. Richmond, VA. (March 2023)
• P. Gee. Understanding the Priorities for the Use of Digital Health Technologies (DHTs) to Support Clinical Trials for Drug Development and Review. FDA/Duke/Margolis Virtual Meeting. (March 2023)
• P. Gee. American Heart Association’s Cardio-Kidney Metabolic Health Meeting. Dallas, TX. (April 2023)
• M. Baliker. Featured in UNOS article about pediatric kidney transplant. (April 2023)
• Kidney Patient Advisory Council. Poster: Patient Resources: Toolkits Created BY Patient FOR Patients. CMS Quality Conference. (May 2023)
• P. Gee (Interview). Dialysis was hell to me: A minister’s injustice in his own medical care creates his passion for patient advocacy. ASN Kidney News. May 2023.
• D. Edwards, S. Dixon. Living Your Best Life with Kidney Disease. Decatur, GA. (June 2023)
• L. Custer. Video: Home Dialysis: Possible Barriers to Overcome available at https://youtu.be/8cUMZDJhAXM?si=wFixPxxCrFQh1_uq. (July 2023)
• T. Nelson. Radio Interview: Transplanting Hope. (July 2023)
• L. Hall. Depression: Barriers to Treatment and Some Solutions. Pacific Northwest Council of Nephrology Social Workers Workshop. (July 2023)
• P. Gee. Graduation Speaker and Graduate: Patients Professor Academy. University of Maryland School of Pharmacy. (August 2023)
• P. Gee. Gut PD Workshop: Patients’ and Caregivers’ Perspectives on Gut Health Outcomes in Peritoneal Dialysis. University of Sydney/University of Queensland, Australia. (August 2023)
• L. Hall. Who You Gonna Call? Getting Your Dialysis and Transplant Care Concerns Addressed. National Kidney Foundation Virtual Education Series. (August 2023)
• D. Edwards, M. Baliker. Appointed to the Editorial Board (Patient Voices) of the *Clinical Journal of the American Society of Nephrology*. (September 2023)
• J. Starling. Dealing with Sepsis. American Kidney Foundation. (October 2023)
The Medicare End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) Program, a national health insurance program for people with kidney failure, was established in Oct 1972 with the passage of Section 299I of Public Law 92-603, enacted July 1973.

The formation of ESRD Network Organizations was authorized in 1978 by Public Law 95-292 which amended Title XVIII of the Social Security Act by adding section 1881. → 32 ESRD Network areas were initially established.

In 1986, the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1986 (P.L. 99-509) amended section 1881c of the Social Security Act to establish at least 17 ESRD Network areas and to revise the Network Organizations responsibilities.

Today, 18 ESRD Network Organizations exist under contract to CMS and serve as liaisons between the federal government and the providers of ESRD services.

The ESRD Network Organizations’ responsibilities include:
- the quality oversight of the care ESRD patients receive,
- the collection of data to administer the national Medicare ESRD program, and
- the provision of technical assistance to ESRD providers and patients in areas related to ESRD.

Since 1976 The National Forum of ESRD Networks: All ESRD Networks are members of the Forum, which is a not-for-profit organization that advocates on behalf of its membership and coordinates projects and activities of mutual interest to ESRD Networks.

The Forum facilitates the flow of information and advances a national quality agenda with CMS and other renal organizations.

Medical Advisory Council (MAC)
The National Forum of the ESRD Networks
www.ESRDnetworks.org
COVID Death in among CKD and ESRD Patients
Potential Causes of Clinic Closures:

1. COVID deaths in 2020-2021 affected ESRD population in 2023?
   • ND-CKD Stages 4-5 exhibit high COVID mortality
2. More than 25,000 kidney transplantations in 2022 and likely more in 2023
3. Later transition to dialysis:
   • Is this an emerging culture?
   • Role of VBC models?
   • New medications and diet, e.g., SGLT2i
4. More home dialysis at the expense of in-center HD?
5. Fiscal and workforce factors:
   • Shortage of dialysis staff, high wages, inflation
   • Budget neutrality
6. Other unknown factors
Measures Review in 2023

Kam Kalantar-Zadeh, MD, MPH, PhD
@kamkalantar

Public Comment Period for 2023 #MeasureSetReview #MSR @CMS #ESRD Quality Incentive Program ESRD-QIP Report Now Open
Guidebook Available for Download
p4qm.org/msr-material/p... click on File MSR-Report-ESRD-QIP-20230911.pdf
Deadline for comment: 11:59 pm ET 9/25/23
@ESRDNetworks

ESRD Medicare Program 2024 Prospective Payment System Final Rule CMS-1782-F released. Select QIP highlights:
1) Standardized AV Fistula rate is removed
2) UF rate reporting removed
3) Time on chair data to be collected
4) Health equity attestations added
cms.gov/newsroom/fact-...
Donate Online!
Donor Wall

A gracious “Thank you” to all of our donors, big and small, who are making a difference in the life of a kidney patient!

With more than 75 engaged volunteers actively involved in identifying gaps in care and filling those gaps, the Forum has developed both patient and provider centered resources. Through the generous donations from the community, we will continue this work. What is the community saying about us?

“Good info graphics and something for every staff member in the dialysis clinic.” – Corporate VP in Dialysis, about the Kidney Transplant Toolkit

“The information is geared to improving the health and safety of patients with ESRD.” – Dialysis Social Worker, about the Kidney Transplant Toolkit

“It gives a new way to look at things. We need to make sure we continue to meet patient needs.” – Dialysis Nurse, about the Transplant of Care Toolkit

Thank You to all of our Generous Donors in 2021

Read more...

Thank You to all of our Generous Donors in 2022

Read more...

Donor Recognition Levels

Read more...
Sharing something about the KPAC? Use #KPACPatientVoice

Questions / Comments:
Kelly Brooks, Forum Coordinator
kbrooks@esrdnetworks.org
804-390-9822
Questions?

Kam Kalantar-Zadeh, MD, MPH, PhD
kkalantar@lundquist.org
**Mission:**
To support and advocate on behalf of the ESRD Networks and to improve the standard of care to patients with renal disease.

**Vision:**
Being the patient eyes, ears and voice for CMS bridging the gap between patient experience and provider performance.

November 2023
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<th>Network 1:</th>
<th>Laurie Pease</th>
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<td>Sherrie Shively</td>
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<td>Network 2:</td>
<td>Stephanie Dixon</td>
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<td>Dawn Edwards (Co-Chair)</td>
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<td>Network 3:</td>
<td>Bill Senior</td>
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<td><em>Anthony Abbate</em></td>
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<td>Virna Elly</td>
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<td>Jamall Wimberly</td>
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<td>Eric Dolby</td>
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<td>Network 11:</td>
<td>Jeff Nelson</td>
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<td>Mary Baliker (Interim Co-Chair)</td>
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<td>Network 12:</td>
<td>Shane Blanchard</td>
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<td>Lisa Custer</td>
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<td>Network 17:</td>
<td>Doris Lew</td>
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<td>Network 18:</td>
<td>VACANT</td>
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<td>EDAC Rep:</td>
<td>Dee LeDuc (NW 11)</td>
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<td>PSD Reps:</td>
<td>Yessi Cubillo (NW 3)</td>
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<td>Lisa Hall, MSSW, LICSW (NW 16)</td>
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Welcome New KPAC Members!

- Laurie Pease – ESRD Network 1
- Sherrie Shively – ESRD Network 1
- Anthony Abbate – ESRD Network 3
- Jamall Wimberly – ESRD Network 6
- Eric Dolby – ESRD Network 6
- Laura Wilcox – ESRD Network 9
- Yazzi Bishop – ESRD Network 13
Thank You Former KPAC Members!

The following KPAC members rotated off this year. We thank them for their service.

- Gerald “Jerry” Calabritto – ESRD Network 1
- Joy Solomon, MSN, RN, PNP – ESRD Network 3
- Dolores McGrath – ESRD Network 6
- Marquita Kirk – ESRD Network 8
- Quin Taylor – ESRD Network 10
- Patti Bologna – ESRD Network 11
- Bobby Walker – ESRD Network 13
- Lynne Hall – ESRD Network 15
- Terry McCallum – ESRD Network 18
In Memory of Those We Lost in 2023

Derek Forfang

Terry Peeler

Nieltje Gedney

Jacqueline Bland

Dawn Goertz
Forum Organizational Chart

Board of Directors

EDAC
(Executive Director Advisory Council)
Executive Directors

MAC
(Medical Advisory Council)
MRB Chairs

KPAC
(Kidney Patient Advisory Council)
Patients

- Assisting the Networks
- Council Activities: MAC, EDAC, and KPAC
  - Regular Communication with CMS
  - Quality Conference Webinars
- Facilitate flow of information between the Forum and Network Staff/BOD/MRB/PAC
- Relationships with other Stakeholders (i.e., RHA, RPA, LDOs, NKF, AAKP, CDC, ASN, etc.)
Integration of Geriatric Care into Dialysis Clinics

• NIH-funded grant project run by Rasheeda Hall, MD, MBA, MHS, FASN, Duke University
• KPAC members Dawn Edwards and Bill Seniorserving on the Stakeholder Advisory Board (SAB)
• Project will refine and pilot test a geriatric care model for dialysis clinics.
• The SAB members will play a critical role by providing feedback on study design, patient-facing materials, and implementation, as well as ensuring that the care model meets the needs and expectations of patients and care providers alike.
Identifying Goals of Care and Concerns in ESKD Patients

- Study conducted by Don Molony, MD, Jacob Galan, MS-2, and others.
- This qualitative study will include a national sample of ESRD patients, both male and female adults (ages 18-85), who are currently receiving incenter HD or who have been treated with in-center HD in the past prior to kidney transplant or transition to home dialysis.
- Investigators will interview patients to identify important questions that need to be addressed to improve patient quality of life, experience of care, and safety.
- The goal of the study is to foster a patient-centered approach to improve quality of care and ensure that patient concerns are addressed regarding their dialysis treatment.
- Results will be summarized and submitted for national/international publication in a peer-reviewed journal.
KPAC Member Activities

• NKF Policy and KAC member participation
• AAKP Board and member participation
• DPC Board member
• UNOS
• Philadelphia OPO Board
• UCSF Kidney Project Patient Board
• New York State CKD Champions
• ASN: Kidney Health Initiative & Kidney X Reviewers, DKD Diabetic Kidney Disease Collaborative
• Kidney X judges panel
• CDC: Making Dialysis Safer Coalition
• KCER
• ESRD NCC/MEI, NEPOP
KPAC Member Activities

- Forum MAC
- OPPUS aspects of peritonitis-related practices and outcomes Derek
- PDOPPS Webinar OPPUS dashboard update, STATUS OF PD in the US
- NIH / NIDDK Advisory Board, Dawn
- Docola [https://www.doco.la/#/Home](https://www.doco.la/#/Home)
- PCORI Grant Activities
- NCC Legacy Members
- TAQIL ETCLC – Mary
- KDIGO Workgroups – Dawn & Mary
- HDU (Home Dialyzors United) Board Members - Dawn & Patrick
• P. Bologna. Transplant Living Community Ambassador. Henry Ford Health. (Ongoing)
• P. Gee. National Kidney Foundation Central Virginia Lunch and Learn. Richmond, VA. (March 2023)
• P. Gee. Understanding the Priorities for the Use of Digital Health Technologies (DHTs) to Support Clinical Trials for Drug Development and Review. FDA/Duke/Margolis Virtual Meeting. (March 2023)


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2023 TEP Participation

- PCORI 5-Diamond Stakeholder TEP (Mary Baliker)
- Quality Measure Development Plan & Quality Measure Index (Mary Baliker)
- ESRD PPS TEPs
  - MIPS TEP: Preventing and Delaying the Progression of Kidney Disease (Derek Forfang)
  - Acumen Wave 5 Post-Transplant Care (Derek Forfang)
- Impact Assessment Report 2024 of CMS Quality and Efficiency Measures (Derek Forfang)
- Focus on health equity
Dawn Edwards and Mary Baliker have been appointed to serve on the Clinical Journal of the American Society of Nephrology's Patient Voices Editorial Board!
Upcoming KPAC Activities

• Complete patient videos for MAC Home Dialysis Toolkit
• Develop a Cardiovascular Disease & CKD Toolkit
• Develop short videos/webinars about KPAC resources and orientation materials for new KPAC members
• Explore financial resources to help support the Forum
• Develop a “Success on All Modalities” video
• Participate in MAC Toolkit Project, June 2024, Honolulu, HI
For all your support and encouragement.

We couldn’t do what we do without you!
Questions?

Dawn Edwards, Co-Chair
dawnedwards@gmail.com

Mary Baliker, Interim Co-Chair
mbaliker@gmail.com
Executive Directors Advisory Council (July 2023)

**Chair:**
Vicky Cash, MBA, BSN, RN

**Vice-Chair:**
Mary Albin, BS, CPHQ

**Networks 1/2**
Sue Caponi, MBA, RN, BSN, CPHQ

**Networks 3/4**
Chris Brown

**Network 5**
Brandy Vinson

**Network 6**
Danielle Daley, MBA

**Networks 7/13/15/17/18**
Helen Rose, MSW, BSW, LCSW

**Networks 8/14**
Mary Albin, BS, CPHQ

**Network 9**
Vicky Cash, MBA, BSN, RN

**Network 10**
Audrey Broaddus

**Network 11**
Dee LeDuc

**Network 12**
Stephanie Smith

**Network 16**
Stephanie Hutchinson, MBA
ESRD Network Contract Updates

• Technical Direction Received
  • Depression treatment goal measure removed
  • BMI measure removed
  • There are now 24 QIA goals in Option Year 2, including the same four PFE goals
• On site visits by DKH began November and occurring through February
  • Visiting organization main corporate offices and an ESRD or transplant facility
  • Focus on how Networks are working to overcome barriers
• Vax-COVID19 Pt Fully Vaccinated (80% Of Pt)
• Vax-COVID19 Staff Fully Vaccinated (95% Of Pt)
• Pneumonia Vaccination Up to Date (+7% Over BL)
• Hosp-Inpatient (-4% Below BL)
• Hosp-Unplanned (-4% Below BL)
• Hosp-ED Visit (-4% Below BL)
• NH-Alt Blood Transfusions (-7% Below BL)
• NH-Alt Infection (-14% Below BL)
• NH-Blood Transfusions (-3% Below BL)
• NH-Infection (-6% Below BL)
• NH-Peritonitis (-3% Below BL)
Measures Summary 2023-24

- PFE-QAPI (30% Over BL)
- PFE-Life Plan (+30% Over BL)
- PFE-Peer Mentor (+15% Over BL)
- NPFE-LAN Attendance (60% attendance)
- DQQIA-Form_2746 (+5% Over BL)
- DQQIA-Form_2728 (+4% Over BL)
- Home-incident (+30% Over BL)
- Home-Transitions (+12% Over BL)
- Telemedicine (+3% Over BL)
- Txp-Waitlist (+9% Over BL)
- Txp-Transplant (+12% Over BL)
- Vax-Influenza Pt (90% Of Pt)
- Vax-Influenza Staff (90% Of Staff)
Transplant – Added to Waitlist
Transplant – Actual Transplanted

Transplanted Relative Increase Percent of Goal

Oct 2023
Network % of Goal
Interim Goal 50%
National 51.69%
NW01 54.66%
NW02 63.43%
NW03 63.02%
NW04 43.25%
NW05 42.69%
NW06 55.21%
NW07 47.23%
NW08 47.69%
NW09 44.89%
NW10 84.99%
NW11 59.00%
NW12 40.91%
NW13 46.46%
NW14 49%
NW15 53.73%
NW16 50.88%
NW17 47.79%
NW18 53.01%

month (Month)

Goal 100%
Incident to Home Relative Increase Percent of Goal

Oct 2023

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Network</th>
<th>% of Goal</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Interim Goal</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National</td>
<td>45.94%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NW01</td>
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<tr>
<td>NW18</td>
<td>36.86%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Vaccine – Influenza Patients

Vaccination - Influenza Patients Percent of Goal - By Month Option Period 2

Oct 2023

Network % of Goal
- National: 44%
- NW01: 54.19%
- NW02: 43.54%
- NW03: 63.22%
- NW04: 55.46%
- NW05: 55.57%
- NW06: 54.76%
- NW07: 50.53%
- NW08: 56.99%
- NW09: 62.74%
- NW10: 58.47%
- NW11: 54.94%
- NW12: 58.4%
- NW13: 57.6%
- NW14: 52.84%
- NW15: 56.59%
- NW16: 52.87%
- NW17: 58.10%
- NW18: 55.63%
Vaccinations – Pneumococcal

* COVID and Influenza data unavailable
Vaccinations – COVID19 Patients

* COVID and Influenza data unavailable
Nursing Home – Infections

Catheter Infection Relative Decrease Percent of Upper Limit

Oct 2023
Network % of Upper Limit
- National 108.44%
- NW01 0%
- NW02 302.84%
- NW03 429.87%
- NW04 50.63%
- NW05 62.44%
- NW06 80%
- NW07 125.43%
- NW08 130.11%
- NW09 135.5%
- NW10 143%
- NW11 150.9%
- NW12 0%
- NW13 94.3%
- NW14 0%
- NW15 161.58%
Hospitalization – Inpatient ESRD Admissions

ESRD Admissions Relative Decrease Percent of Upper Limit

Oct 2023
Network % of Upper Limit
- National 96.17%
- NW01 98.94%
- NW02 103.59%
- NW03 110.5%
- NW04 95.89%
- NW05 97.19%
- NW06 95.78%
- NW07 104.26%
- NW08 90.84%
- NW09 94.1%
- NW10 96.35%
- NW11 95.89%
- NW12 106.08%
- NW13 99.33%
- NW14 91.94%
- NW15 94.48%
- NW16 87.41%
- NW17 96.56%
- NW18 91.39%

Percent of Upper Limit

Upper Limit 100%
Hospitalization – Unplanned Readmissions

Unplanned Readmissions Relative Decrease Percent of Upper Limit

Unplanned Readmissions Data Table
Hospitalization – ED Visits

ED Visits Relative Decrease Percent of Upper Limit

Oct 2023
Network % of Upper Limit
National 89.92%
NW01 90.81%
NW02 91.55%
NW03 91.14%
NW04 97.28%
NW05 90.19%
NW06 85.95%
NW07 90.32%
NW08 93.55%
NW09 83.75%
NW10 88.74%
NW11 85.5%
NW12 91.02%
NW13 50.41%
NW14 91.73%
NW15 75.78%
NW16 87.88%
NW17 93.51%
NW18 106.1%
EQRS Data Challenges & Barriers Unchanged

• New CDC definition of COVID-19 “up-to-date” vaccination
• Nursing home/date patient indicator does not capture history so infections/transfusions from past settings being added into data set
  • Networks suggested a date verification process of event to eliminate those incidents that occurred prior to nursing home placement. Temp solution; working with CMS on long-term solution
  • Nursing home baseline data has inaccuracies. If baseline zero, need to not exceed zero in OY2
• EQRS vaccination module moved, LDO EMRs just catching up. Monitor with influenza season.
• High home incident goal, while home programs keep closing
• 2728 forms older than 1 year past due difficult to track/complete
• Six months into contract and home incident, vaccination, nursing home, and hospitalization goals are not aligning with 6-month goals.
• EDs having ongoing discussions with CMS on vaccination and nursing home indicators due to ongoing data issues and changing goal indicators.
• DKH has started a measures committee to evaluate quality measure issues.
• EDAC/CMS meetings have been more engaging and focused on collaboration.
• On-site visits have been going well!
Questions?

Vicky Cash
vcash@ipro.org
**Chair:** Daniel L. Landry, DO, FASN  
**Vice Chair:** Preethi Yerram, MD, MS, FASN  
**Immediate Past Chair:** Kam Kalantar-Zadeh, MD, MPH, PhD

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Network 1</th>
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<th>Network 10</th>
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<th>Network 12</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Daniel L. Landry, DO, FASN</td>
<td>George Coritsidis, MD</td>
<td>Keith Norris, MD, PhD</td>
<td>Paul Palevsky, MD</td>
<td>Marc Brazie, MD</td>
<td>John J. Doran, MD, FASN</td>
<td>Debra Hain, PhD, APRN, AGPCNP-BC, FAAN, FAANP, FNKF</td>
<td>Martha Tankersley, MSN, RN</td>
<td>Anne Huml, MD, MS</td>
<td>Daniel Roseman, MD</td>
<td>Louis Raymond, MD</td>
<td>Preethi Yerram, MD, MS, FASN</td>
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<th>EDAC Rep</th>
<th>QID Rep</th>
<th>KPAC Rep</th>
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<tr>
<td>Laura Rankin, MD</td>
<td>Donald Molony, MD</td>
<td>Harmeet Singh, MD</td>
<td>Christine Logar, MD</td>
<td>Ramin Sam, MD</td>
<td>Kam Kalantar-Zadeh, MD, MPH, PhD</td>
<td>Stephen Pastan, MD</td>
<td>Sue Caponi, MBA, RN, BSN, CPHQ (1/2)</td>
<td>Barbara Dommert-Breckler, RN, BSN, CNN (16)</td>
<td>VACANT</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**EDAC Rep:** Sue Caponi, MBA, RN, BSN, CPHQ (1/2)  
**QID Rep:** Barbara Dommert-Breckler, RN, BSN, CNN (16)  
**KPAC Rep:** VACANT
• The Medical Advisory Council (MAC) of the National Forum of the ESRD Network:
  • Provides a consistent interpretation from the provider perspective of the challenging issues faced by the ESRD Networks, Forum Board, and other stakeholders
  • Works with and through the ESRD Networks to generate QA/QI initiatives aimed at improving care of kidney patients
Annual MAC Conference: Philadelphia

- Q1 MAC Quarterly Conference Call: Thursday **March 1, 2023**
- Q2 MAC Quarterly Conference Call: Thursday **June 7, 2023**
- Q3 MAC Quarterly Conference Call: Thursday **Sep 14, 2023**
- Forum BOD Meeting: Fri/Sat **Sep 23-24, 2023**, Denver, CO
- ASN Kidney Week Meeting: **Nov 2-5, 2023**, Philadelphia, PA
Lilia Cervantes, MD, MSCS

• Undergraduate training at Colorado University, Boulder
• Medical degree and internal medicine residency at the University of Colorado School of Medicine
• Director of Immigrant Health
• Associate Professor for the Department of Medicine at the University of Colorado, Anschutz Medical Campus
Meeting QIP Metric Goals at the Unit Level
Preethi Yerram, MD
Forum MAC Meeting
November 1, 2023
MAC Mission & Vision for 2022-23

• Communication: with CMS, Networks
• Education: Toolkits, KPAC collaboration, RPA
• Delivery: Reaching our Network audience and other organizations (ASN, RPA, NKF, NCC)
  • Get to the training program directors and early-career nephrology providers
  • Value-based care through education and advocacy with CMS
  • Take back what we are doing to Network level
Updates from MAC Leadership

- Home Dialysis Toolkit 2nd edition publication
- Updates regarding Practicing Health Equity & Patient-Provider Collaboration in Kidney Care Toolkit
- Review of toolkit work over the last 4 years
- Response to CMS Proposed Rule
- Dialysis unit closures update
- Sharing Highly Effective Practices (SHEP)
Forum Toolkits (Available at https://esrdnetworks.org/toolkits)

Professional Toolkits
• Inpatient Medical Director Toolkit
• Kidney Transplant Toolkit
• Transitions of Care Toolkit
• Vaccination Toolkit
• Outpatient Medical Director Toolkit
• Home Dialysis Toolkit (2nd edition published online!!)
• Catheter Reduction Toolkit
• QAPI Toolkit

Patient Toolkits:
• Health Equity Toolkit (in progress)
• Dialysis Patient Depression Toolkit
• Dialysis Patient Grievance Toolkit
• Financial Help Resources
• Kidney Patient Transplant Toolkit
  • Patient video providing an overview of the toolkit available at
    https://media.esrdnetworks.org/documents/Is_A_Kidney_Transplant_Right_For_Me.mp4; consider sharing with your patients!
Oct 02, 2023

Dear Dr Sam,

Thank you for providing a revised version of "Vaccination for Patients Receiving Dialysis" to *Kidney Medicine*. We are pleased to inform you that we are satisfied that the concerns raised in the letter requesting revision have been appropriately addressed, and we have accepted this Review for publication, with the assumption...
Needs and Considerations for Standardization of Kidney Disease Education in Patients with Advanced CKD

Ashutosh M. Shukla1,2, Kerri L. Cavanaugh3,4, Huanguang Jia1, Jennifer Hale-Gallardo1,5, Anuradha Wadhwa6,7, Michael J. Fischer8,9, Scott Reule10,11, Paul M. Palevsky12,13, Linda F. Fried12,13, and Susan T. Crowley14,15
Dialysis Unit Closure Data

Clinical Journal of the American Society of Nephrology
Closure of Dialysis Clinics in the USA: An Unprecedented Trend in the History of ESRD Program
--Manuscript Draft--

Appendix Figure 1. Net growth vs closure of dialysis clinics, 2021-2023

Currently in Peer Review
Home Dialysis Toolkit
Developed by the Forum of ESRD Networks Medical Advisory Council (MAC)

This toolkit for health providers and practitioners is a reference tool that gives information about overcoming barriers to starting or growing a home dialysis program.
Thank You to Our Dedicated Authors

Daniel Landry, DO, FASN - Committee Chair
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Kidney Care & Transplant Services of New England
Springfield, Massachusetts
ESRD Network 1

Dawn Edwards
Kidney Patient Advisory Council Co-Chair
New York, New York
ESRD Network 2

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Berkshire Medical Center
Pittsfield, Massachusetts
ESRD Network 1

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Harbor-UCLA Medical Center
Los Angeles County Department of Health Services
Los Angeles, CA
ESRD Network 18

Donald Molony, MD
University of Texas McGovern Medical School
Houston, Texas
ESRD Network 14

Brianna Smith
Quality Improvement Coordinator
Combining Health
Seattle, Washington
ESRD Network 16

Barbara Dommert-Breckler, RN, BSN, CNN
Quality Improvement Director
Combining Health
Seattle, Washington
ESRD Network 16

Maria Story, MD, FACP, CHS
Southeast Iowa Regional Medical Center
West Burlington, Iowa
ESRD Network 12

Carry Holtkamp, RN, BSN
Southeastern Renal Dialysis
Mount Pleasant, Iowa
ESRD Network 12
Home Dialysis Toolkit Update

A Call to Action for Better Home Dialysis Support: A Wish List from the Kidney Patient Advisory Council

1. Make home dialysis programs accessible to all if home therapies are truly to be an equitable option, they should be in underserved communities as well as affluent neighborhoods.
2. Training materials need to be translated into multiple languages.
3. Assistance for patients with financial needs should be provided for chairs, storage containers, minor adjustments to the home (e.g., 3-pronged outlets, sink adapters).
4. Every home program should have trained PCTs to assist nurses with
   a. Patient training to reduce wait times
   b. Patients adjusting to home therapy post training
   c. Troubleshooting machine malfunctions
   d. Performing equipment maintenance and testing
   e. Providing emergency respite care after hospitalizations and illness
   f. Staff-assisted treatment to patients who have been at home for years, and are now elderly and unable to perform treatments themselves
5. Treatment options education should be standardized and mandatory for every patient in a way that is measurable for every facility, even facilities without home therapy programs on-site. Home dialysis programs should be encouraged to partner with such facilities in order to make sure patients are able to receive these dialysis modality education options from experienced staff.
6. Every home patient should be provided with a peer mentor they can reach out to if the patient should so choose.
7. Home therapies should be a mandatory subject for all nephrologists and taught to all PCTs and in-center dialysis staff. Reassure staff that promoting patient modality choice is not only good for patients but also good for those who care for them. Given the ongoing growth of chronic kidney disease, job security for staff with your specialized skills is a certainty!
8. Home dialysis training rooms should not be in backrooms of in-center facilities. They should be clearly visible to in-center patients while providing the privacy and sanitation required.
9. For patients transitioning from in-center to home, some training should begin immediately after consent on the treatment floor to shorten training times and to keep the patient enthusiastic about going home.
10. Train physicians to provide “precision home dialysis,” as not all patients require the same prescription.

Chapter 1: Making Home Dialysis Success a Reality by Learning from the Life Experiences of our Patients

Dawn Edwards has had end-stage renal disease (ESRD) since 1992 and has been a devoted patient advocate to others on dialysis for decades. She joined the National Forum of ESRD Networks in 2018 and currently serves as co-chair of its Kidney Patient Advisory Council (KPAC). As the Forum discussed updating the home dialysis toolkit, we felt that a patient-centered approach was essential to helping providers and staff appreciate the life experiences of our patients to better serve them as we strive to make sure everyone is given the opportunity to be asked the question: “why not home”? This chapter is dedicated to the patient voice. Dawn Edwards shares her personal story of several different kidney disease transitions in her life and also offers a list of patient “demands” which she and her fellow KPAC colleagues felt must be met if we are to provide our patients with the best support.
Home Dialysis Toolkit Update

Chapter 3: Overcoming the Barriers to Starting or Growing a Home Dialysis Program: Educating Clinicians and Medical Directors

Chapter Synopsis

- The Advancing American Kidney Health (AAKH) initiative was established by the federal government in 2019. It places a strong focus on home dialysis and transplantation.
- Home dialysis training during nephrology fellowship has not been a priority until more recently. This sub-specialized area of nephrology is critical to improving the quality of care provided by the nephrology community going forward in order to ensure that all patients are educated and offered access to all kidney replacement therapies.
- In this chapter, we identify and discuss how to overcome the many barriers to training nephrologists in home dialysis therapies, in addition to discussing different approaches that may help reduce physician burnout.
- We also discuss different programmatic and personnel considerations (which include staffing and administrative issues) that all nephrologists and home dialysis medical directors should consider when starting or maintaining a home dialysis program.
Chapter 4: Emergency Management for the Home Dialysis Program

Chapter Synopsis

- Emergency preparedness for home dialysis requires communication and planning for both patients and staff.
- CMS Emergency Preparedness Requirements state that each program should include 4 major elements: risk assessment and emergency planning, policies and procedures, communication planning, and training and testing.
- For home dialysis staff, emergency preparedness training, back-up communication planning, and coordination of patient care are critical aspects that must be provided to at both the general and individual level.
- For home dialysis patients, emergency preparedness means involvement with training and preparation with the home dialysis unit, continuous readiness with emergency and dialysis supplies, and planning for scenarios of when one cannot leave their home as well as when must leave their home.
- The National Forum of ESRD Networks works closely with the Kidney Community Emergency Response (KCER) during emergencies and are both important resources for up-to-date information, communication, and directed support.
Chapter 6: Overcoming Barriers to Patient Success with Home Dialysis

Urgent Start

“Urgent start” PD (USPD) refers to the practice of initiating dialysis within two weeks of catheter placement. In patients requiring unplanned dialysis, it allows for the avoidance of central venous catheters, facilitates uptake of a home-based modality, and is considered cost-effective in both the short and long term (Liu 2014, Lok 2015). Use of PD as a first modality choice in patients newly dependent on chronic dialysis, most often in the hospital setting, also allows patients without other resources immediate coverage by Medicare. Urgent placement of PD catheters can be performed either by open-surgical or laparoscopic techniques or percutaneously using peritoneoscopic or fluoroscopic guidance depending on local expertise. Patients are generally initially dialyzed with low volumes (500 to 1000 mL) every 1-2 hours in the supine position. Gradual increases to full volume and postural freedom are usually achieved within two weeks (Ghaifari, 2013). PD can be done with a cycler or by manual exchanges. Because of the low volume of dialysis, patients typically need to produce at least 500 mL of urine per day and a residual urea clearance of 5 mL per minute in order to avoid complications of underdialysis.

If PD is urgently started in the hospital, the patient is immediately referred to the home training program upon discharge; initial outpatient PD “runs,” usually CCPD-driven, are performed during working hours in the home training center, and the patient can be simultaneously or intermittently instructed in the performance of his own dialysis. Planning for an urgent start program requires nursing input for staff training and protocol/procedure development (Ghaifari, 2013). The accepting program needs to have sufficient staff, as well as a fully reclining chair or bed, along with the room to offer PD and training with little advance notice, while meeting the needs of previously scheduled patients for training and outpatient visits.

Starting a Rural Home Hemodialysis Program
Maria Story, MD, FACP, CHS, and Carry Holtkamp, RN, BSN

Rural home dialysis programs face multiple challenges, especially when one considers issues regarding patient accessibility and access to services. Both patients and staff may drive many miles to dialysis clinics. For patients who qualify for transportation assistance, coordinating transportation to and from rural homes (which may be on gravel roads and in poor condition during winter months) to the dialysis clinic is another challenge.

Home hemodialysis (HHD) can help reduce many of these barriers. For the appropriately selected patient, performing hemodialysis at home can be life changing. For the purposes of our experience (which only offers one specific home modality), HHD significantly reduces travel time to and from the dialysis clinic while also helping decrease the chance of missed treatments due to inclement weather, poor road conditions, or other unforeseen circumstances. For instance, prior to our opening a HHD program, there was an alternate HHD program approximately 75 miles away from our clinic, but this was not accessible to the vast majority of patients due to the amount of time required to travel to and from the clinic for training and monthly doctor visits.

Our dialysis organization, Southeastern Renal Dialysis, is located in southeast Iowa, and there are five clinics, each approximately 30 miles apart. The central location is the small town of Mount Pleasant (population 9000, 2020 data), and it is located 50 miles from Iowa City, IA, 85 miles from Davenport, IA, 135 miles from Des Moines, IA, 210 miles from St. Louis, MO, and 250 miles from Chicago, IL. Our other clinics are located in Fairfield, West Burlington, Fort Madison, and Keokuk, IA and cover seven counties, with a total population of approximately 150,000 individuals covering nearly 3,300 square miles. Our organization offered peritoneal dialysis (PD) for many years, but due to interest voiced by patients, our organization began a HHD program in 2022.

Following are some steps that our organization took to build and sustain a successful dialysis program. We recognize that not every point will be applicable to all readers, but nevertheless, we felt these to be the most important takeaways from our experience.

Steps in Starting a Rural Home Hemodialysis Program
Chapter 7: Transitional Dialysis Care Units

Chapter Synopsis

- Transitional dialysis care (TDC) is a term more recently used to describe the provision of hemodialysis to dialysis patients using home equipment in an in-center setting, supplemented with thorough patient education on the psychosocial issues associated with dialysis, as well as nutrition and vascular access.
- TDC units provide education over several weeks to patients and caregivers regarding dialysis modality options as well as transplant referral during a critical transition period from chronic kidney disease to end-stage renal disease. Such units can either intermingle with the dialysis unit’s in-center hemodialysis program or be physically separated.
- A key aspect to a successful TDC program is a robust educational curriculum that offers dialysis patients all dialysis modality opportunities through a shared decision-making process.

What is Transitional Dialysis Care?
Most recent Health Equity Toolkit Meeting 11/27/2023

Members: Dan Landry DO, Kam KalantarZadeh MD, Debra Hain APRN, Elizabeth Witten (Social Worker), John Wagner MD, Kelly Mayo (NCC), Don Molony MD, Chaio Wen Lan PhD (NCC), Keith Norris MD, Barbara Dommert-Breckler RN, Dawn Edwards (KPAC), Amaka Eneanya MD (FKC), Lilia Cervantes MD (Univ Colorado), and Sarah Hendry
**Glossary of Terms:** We discussed tonight consideration for a glossary of important terms in beginning of toolkit followed by use of “key terms” that are more chapter specific in place at beginning of each chapter (please see Chiao’s chapter work for examples of the latter)

**Chapter 1: Defining the Problem: Discussing the Many Forms of Healthcare Inequity**  
K. Norris, KKZ

**Chapter 2: Social Drivers of Health in Kidney Care**  
D. Landry, Chaio Wen Lan

**Chapter 3: Detecting Disparities in Kidney Care**  
Barbara Dommert-Breckler, Chaio Wen Lan

**Chapter 4: The Challenges Faced by Immigrants with ESKD in the U.S.**  
D. Molony and ASN/Dr. Cervantes

**Chapter 5: Promoting Patient Engagement and Health Literacy in Kidney Care**  
D. Forfang and D. Landry

**Chapter 6: Causes and Consequences of Involuntary Discharges from Dialysis Clinics**  
D. Molony, D. Hain, B. Witten

**Chapter 7: Creating a Safe Environment for Patient-Provider Collaboration and Seeking Solutions during Patient-Provider Disagreement**  
KPAC using examples of lived experiences; Kelly Mayo

**Chapter 8: Implementing and Practicing Health Equity**  
Chaio Wen Lan, Nephrology Social Workers who meet with Kelly

**Chapter 9: Making Best Use of Resources and Sharing Highly Effective Practices: Suggested Approaches and Solutions**  
Dawn/Rogosin will describe how their “home ambassador” program
FORUM of End Stage Renal Disease Networks

August 23, 2023

The Honorable Chiquita Brooks-LaSure
Administrator
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
Department of Health and Human Services
Attention: CMS-1768-P
Mail Stop C4-26-05
7500 Security Boulevard
Baltimore, MD 21244-1850

Re: CMS-1782-P: Medicare Program; End-Stage Renal Disease Prospective Payment System, Payment for Renal Dialysis Services Furnished to Individuals with Acute Kidney Injury, End-Stage Renal Disease Quality Incentive Program, and End-Stage Renal Disease Treatment Choices Model

Dear Administrator Brooks-LaSure:

The National Forum of ESRD Networks appreciates the opportunity to comment on the changes proposed in CMS-1782-P. We are aware of the continued importance of the QIP and ETC model in the Advancing American Kidney Health (AAKH) initiative and recognize the intent of the proposed rule to promote excellence. We have primarily limited our comments to those sections of the proposed rule that specifically relate to renal dialysis services insofar as they pertain to the FORUM’s role in providing oversight and ensuring quality care.
Forum Position Papers, Press Releases & Public Comments

Forum Comments to CMS Re: CMS-1782-P Medicare ESRD PPS (August 2023)

Forum Comments to PQM Re: Spring 2023 Quality Measures (June 2023)

Forum Comments to NQF Re: Renal Measures (September 2022)
• Five submissions approved to-date
  ▪ Monthly Chairside IDT Meetings
  ▪ COVID-19 Communication Between SNF/PCH & Dialysis Facilities
  ▪ Second Chance: A 90-Day Trial Basis Program
  ▪ Transplant Patient Checklist
  ▪ *NEW* Emergency Preparedness Community Drill

Congratulations!

Latest SHEP Submission Approved!

Emergency Preparedness Community Drill

• Conducted full-scale emergency preparedness drills including dialysis staff, volunteer mock patients from the community, hospital emergency department, and local EMS, police, and fire department.
• Helped to educate the fire department, ambulances, and police about the unique needs and circumstances of dialysis patients and the dialysis facility.
• The volunteer mock patients each had mock accesses including catheters or AV accesses, and the staff had to practice quickly getting patients disconnected from dialysis and evacuating patients in their dialysis chairs.
• Each mock volunteer patient had a unique situation that they were given ahead of time and play acted to help drill the dialysis staff.
Second Chance Program Participation

Second Chance Programs (18 ESRD Networks)

- Yes: 8 (44%)
- No: 7 (39%)
- Similar: 3 (17%)
MAC Vision & Goals for 2023-24

- Communication: with CMS, Networks
- Education: Toolkits – Health Equity, ? APP
- Delivery: Reaching our Network audience and other organizations
- Ensure the growth and vitality of the Forum
  - Share your accomplishments with the Forum
  - Outreach and education to early-career nephrology providers
  - Take back what we are doing to the Network level
Questions?

Dan Landry, DO, FASN
daniel.landry@baystatehealth.org
Treasurer’s Report

Stephanie Counter, MBA
Treasurer
ESRD Network 16
## Balance Sheet

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<td>Investments</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Assets</td>
<td>$581,182.47</td>
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Finance Committee Update

• 990 filed and accepted by the IRS
• 2024 budget being drafted
• Resource Development
  “The Forum will diversify its revenue sources and increase over asset base by 10% in the next 2 years in order to sustain Forum activities and reduce deficit budgeting.”
  • Semi-annual appeal
  • Marketing Donate button (recognition, memorials)
  • Derek Forfang Memorial Fund ([https://esrdnetworks.org/donate/](https://esrdnetworks.org/donate/))
  • Grants
  • Include patient stories and utilize social media marketing
Questions?

Stephanie Counter, MBA
shutchinson@comagine.org
Final Thoughts

Q&A
On the Horizon in 2024

• Advancing American Kidney Health
• Focus on enhancing social media presence
• Updates to MAC Toolkits and development of 3 new MAC Toolkits
• New KPAC Toolkits
• Actively pursuing additional financial resources to support Forum/Network activities
• Sharing Highly Effective Practices in the Kidney Community: consider submitting a best practice to the Forum’s new community education resource
Derek Forfang Memorial Fund

The Forum has established the Derek Forfang Memorial Fund to honor Derek’s legacy. The Fund will support the work of the Forum's KPAC. Make your tax-deductible donation today at https://esrdnetworks.org/donate/. 
Donate Online!

https://esrdnetworks.org/donate/
Donor Wall

A gracious “Thank you” to all of our donors, big or small, who are making a difference in the life of a kidney patient!

With more than 75 engaged volunteers actively involved in identifying gaps in care, filling those gaps, the Forum has developed both patient and provider centered resources. Through the generous donations from the community, we will continue this work. What is the community saying about our work?

“Good info graphics and something for every staff member in the dialysis clinic.” – Corporate VP in Dialysis, about the Kidney Transplant Toolkit

“The information is geared to improving the health and safety of patients with ESRD.” – Dialysis Social Worker, about the Kidney Transplant Toolkit

“It gives a new way to look at things. We need to make sure we continue to meet patient needs.” – Dialysis Nurse, about the Transplant of Care Toolkit

Thank You to all of our Generous Donors in 2021

Read more...

Thank You to all of our Generous Donors in 2022

Read more...

Donor Recognition Levels

Read more...
Use the Chat feature on your Zoom panel to submit your questions.

All unanswered questions will be reviewed by our speakers; they will be summarized in a Q&A document which will be posted to the Forum website.
esrdnetworks.org

https://facebook.com/esrdnetworks

https://twitter.com/ESRDNetworks (tag us @esrdnetworks)


https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC9Vp4Hfu7VmSTbSwG7-6e2g

Sharing something about the KPAC? Use #KPACPatientVoice

Questions / Comments:
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804-390-9822