2021 Annual Meeting

June 23, 2021
Today’s Presenters

**Ralph Atkinson, MD**
President

**Derek Forfang & Dawn Edwards**
Co-Chairs, Kidney Patient Advisory Council (KPAC)

**Brandy Vinson**
Chair, Executive Director Advisory Council (EDAC)

**Kam Kalantar-Zadeh, MD, MPH, PhD**
Chair, Medical Advisory Council (MAC)

**Stephanie Hutchinson, MBA**
Treasurer

**Dave Henner, DO**
President-Elect
Our Mission

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

December 2019
ESRD Network Organizations

ESRD (End Stage Renal Disease) Network Program

What is an ESRD Network?

An ESRD Network is defined in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), at 42 CFR Part 405. Subpart U as all Medicare-approved ESRD facilities in a designated geographic area specified by CMS. These regulations require ESRD treatment facilities to be organized into groups called Networks in order to promote a system of effective coordination. As an organized Network, dialysis and transplant providers can coordinated patient referral and access to resources in a more efficient manner.

What is the ESRD Network Program?

Congress enacted modifications of the Medicare ESRD Program on June 13, 1978 (PL 95-292) to improve cost-effectiveness, ensure quality of care, encourage kidney transplantation and home dialysis, and assist patients to return to work. This legislation amended Title XVIII of the Social Security Act by adding Section 1881, which designated ESRD Network areas and established a statutory requirement for the Network Organization Program, consistent with criteria determined by the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services. The ESRD Network Organizations act as the administrative governing body to the Network and liaison to the Federal government. To help achieve coordinated delivery of ESRD services, representatives of hospitals and health facilities serving dialysis and transplant patients in each area of the country are linked with patients, physicians, nurses, social workers, dietitians, and technicians into Network Councils. There are 16 Network Organizations across the United States and in the territories of the United States.

Why does CMS have an ESRD Network Program?

CMS relies on the Network Organizations to develop a relationship with the dialysis professionals, providers, and patients and create a collaborative environment to improve patient care. One of the primary functions of the Network Organizations is to assist CMS in understanding the needs of ESRD patients by including patients in quality improvement activities and meetings with CMS. CMS directs the Network Organizations through the development of a contract. CMS reevaluates the quality improvement activities in the contract and the goals the Network Organization are required to meet annually. Title XVIII Section 1881 of the Social Security Act requires each Network Organization of each network be responsible for:

- Encouraging, consistent with sound medical practice, the use of the treatment settings most compatible with the successful rehabilitation of the patient and the participation of patients, providers of services, and renal disease facilities in vocational rehabilitation programs;
- Developing criteria and standards relating to the quality and appropriateness of patient care and with respect to working with patients, facilities, and providers in encouraging participation in vocational rehabilitation programs, and network goals with respect to the placement of patients in self-care settings and undergoing or preparing for transplantation;
- Evaluating the procedure by which facilities and providers in the Network assess the appropriateness of patients for proposed treatment modalities;
- Implementing a procedure for evaluating and resolving patient grievances;
- Conducting on-site reviews of facilities and providers as necessary, utilizing standards of care established by the Network Organization to assure proper medical care;
- Collecting, validating, and analyzing such data as are necessary to prepare the reports and to assure the maintenance of the registry; and
- Identifying facilities and providers that are not cooperating toward meeting Network goals and assisting such facilities and providers in developing appropriate plans for correction.
Puerto Rico and Virgin Islands are part of Network 3
Hawaii, Guam, American Samoa are part of Network 17
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**National Totals as of 12/31/2019**

|                        | 7,742 | 227 | 530,311 | 233,652 | 763,963 |

**National Totals as of 12/31/2018**

|                        | 7,442 | 229 | 517,670 | 220,511 | 738,181 |
Board of Directors

- EDAC (Executive Director Advisory Council)
- MAC (Medical Advisory Council)
- KPAC (Kidney Patient Advisory Council)

- 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 Stakeholders (i.e. RHA, RPA, LDOs, NKF, AAKP, AHQA, CDC, ASN)
Forum Board of Directors
(As of 07/01/2020)

Executive Committee:
President: Ralph Atkinson III, MD
President-Elect: David Henner, DO
Past President: Donald Molony, MD
Treasurer: Stephanie Hutchinson, MBA
Secretary: Chris Brown
MAC Chair: Kam Kalantar-Zadah, MD, MPH, PhD
EDAC Chair: Brandy Vinson
EDAC Vice-Chair: Natasha Avery, DrPH, LMSW, CHES
KPAC Co-Chair: Derek Forfang
KPAC Co-Chair: Dawn Edwards

Members-at-Large:
Diane Carlson
Robert Kenney, MD
Kelly M. Mayo, MS
Keith Norris, MD PhD
Stephen Pastan, MD
Katrina Russell, RN, CNN

Ad-Hoc:
Andrew Howard, MD, FACP
John Wagner, MD, MBA

Emeritus:
Louis Diamond, MB, ChB, FACP, FCP (SA)
Forum Board of Directors
(Effective 07/01/2021)

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MAC Chair: Kam Kalantar-Zadah, MD, MPH, PhD
EDAC Chair: Brandy Vinson
EDAC Vice-Chair: Vicky Cash
KPAC Co-Chair: Derek Forfang
KPAC Co-Chair: Dawn Edwards

Members-at-Large:
Christine Logar, MD, FASN
Preethi Yerram, MD, MS, FASN
Kelly M. Mayo, MS
Keith Norris, MD PhD
Stephen Pastan, MD
Katrina Russell, RN, CNN

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

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

VICKY CASH, RN, BSN, BMA:
➢ Executive Director of ESRD Network of the Ohio River Valley (Network 9)
➢ Has served in the healthcare of dialysis patients for three decades
➢ Actively involved in ANNA and RHA (NRAA)
➢ EDAC Liaison to the Forum’s Medical Advisory Council (MAC)

CHRISTINE LOGAR, MD, FASN
➢ Nephro-hospitalist for Providence St. Joseph Health with her clinical practice at Swedish health systems
➢ System Chair, Renal Clinical decision team for PSJH, focused on care integration and EMR optimization of workflow
➢ Medical Director for Acute dialysis services, Swedish as well as Chair of Internal Medicine at the Cherry Hill Campus
➢ Clinical interests: AKI prevention, peritoneal dialysis, and optimization of care for the medically complex patient
➢ Guest speaker at the CMS Quality Forum (2019) on Transitions to Care
➢ Member of the Forum’s MAC
➢ Board member and medical review board member of Network 16

PREETHI YERRAM, MD, MS, FASN
➢ Associate Professor of Medicine in the Division of Nephrology at the University of Missouri – Columbia (practices general and transplant nephrology)
➢ Primary transplant physician for the Kidney Transplant Program and is the medical director for DCI’s home dialysis and transitional care units in Columbia, Missouri
➢ Chair of the ESRD Network 12’s medical review board, and Missouri Kidney Program’s Advisory Council
➢ Member of the Forum of ESRD Networks’ Medical Advisory Council (MAC)
➢ Member of the planning committee for the Annual Dialysis Conference
➢ Lead facilitator for the Missouri Telehealth Network’s ‘Kidney disease ECHO’
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<tr>
<td>Network 1</td>
<td>Danielle Daley, MBA</td>
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<td>Shannon Wright</td>
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<td>Helen Rose, MSW, BSW, LCSW</td>
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<td>Network 8 / 14</td>
<td>Mary Albin</td>
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<td>Victoria L. Cash, MBA, BSN, RN</td>
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<td>Diane Carlson</td>
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<td>Stephanie L. Smith</td>
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<td>Network 16</td>
<td>Stephanie Hutchinson, MBA</td>
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Medical Advisory Council
(as of 06/01/2021)

Chair: Kam Kalantar-Zadeh, MD, MPH, PhD
Immediate Past Chair: David Henner, DO

Network 1: Daniel L. Landry, DO, FASN
Network 2: George Coritsidis, MD
Network 3: Keith Norris, MD, PhD
Network 4: Paul Palevsky, MD
Network 5: Marc Brazie, MD
Network 6: John J. Doran, MD, FASN
Network 7: (vacant)
Network 8: Mandeep Grewal, MD, MBA
Network 9: Anne Huml, MD, MS
Network 10: Andres Serrano, MD
Network 11: Louis Raymond, MD

Network 12: Preethi Yerram, MD
Network 13: Laura Rankin, MD
Network 14: Donald Molony, MD
Network 15: Harmeet Singh, MD
Network 16: John Stivelman, MD
Nw16 Alt: Christine Logar, MD
Network 17: Ramin Sam, MD
Network 18: Kam Kalantar-Zadeh, MD

Ad Hoc Member: Stephen Pastan, MD
EDAC Rep: Victoria Cash (9)
QID Rep: Barbara Dommert-Breckler (16)
KPAC Rep: Derek Forfang (17)
## Kidney Patient Advisory Council
(as of 03/31/2021)

| Network 1: | Jerry Calabritto |
| Network 2: | Stephanie Dixon  
Dawn Edwards  **{Co-Chair}** |
| Network 3: | Bill Senior  
Maria Casas |
| Network 4: | Virna Elly  
Patrick Gee |
| Network 5: | Dolores McGrath |
| Network 6: | Bill Senior  
Maria Casas |
| Network 7: | Janice Starling |
| Network 8: | Jacqueline Bland  
Terry Peeler |
| Network 9: | Evan Coaker |
| Network 10: | Della Major  
Quin Taylor |
| Network 11: | Jeff Nelson  
Patricia Bologna  
Mary Baliker |
| Network 12: | Mike Bronson |
| Network 13: | |
| Network 14: | Precious McCowan |
| Network 15: | Lynne Hall  
Nancy Hewitt-Spaeth  
Lisa Custer |
| Network 16: | |
| Network 17: | Derek Forfang  **{Co-Chair}**  
Doris Lew |
| Network 18: | Terry McCallum |
| **EDAC Rep:** | Mary Albin (NW 8/14)  
**PSD Rep:**  
Yessi Cubillo (NW 3)  
Lisa Hall, MSSW, LICSW (NW 16) |
Forum Leadership Calls & Meetings

Forum Executive Committee: Monthly conference calls
Forum Board of Directors:
- Quarterly conference calls
- 2020 Meetings: February (Baltimore) & August (virtual)
- 2021 Meetings: No Winter meeting, Summer date & location TBD

CMS/Forum Leadership Calls
- Conference calls *every-8-weeks*
- In-Person Meeting at CMS Quality Conference *(2020)*
- QMVIG Leadership re: ESRD Measures

CMS/Network/Forum COVID-19 Calls
- Weekly calls began April 2020, transitioned to monthly in November 2020, ended May 2021

MAC
- Quarterly conference calls
- Annual MAC Meeting *(meets just prior to ASN Kidney Week)*

EDAC
- Monthly EDAC calls
- Meeting with CMS & iQIIG Leaders
- Quarterly calls with FMC, DaVita, DCI, NHA (NRAA), Dialyze Direct

KPAC: Monthly conference calls
CMS Org Chart

Chiquita Brooks-LaSure,
Administrator, CMS

Liz Fowler
Director, Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation

iQuality Improvement & Innovation Group
Anita Monteiro, Acting Director
Paul McGann, MD, CMS Chief Medical Officer for Quality Improvement

Div of Community & Population Health
Traci Archibald, Dir
Sophia Autrey, Dep. Dir
Craig Bagley, Acting Regional Program Mgr
(Permanent RPM – Shalon Quinn)

Div of Beneficiary Review & Care Mgmt
Steven Rubio, Dir.
Confidence Gbarayor-Hyde, Dep. Dir.
Trevor Stone, Acting Regional Program Mgr.

Div of Strategic Innovation, Evaluation & Communication
Renee Dupee, Dir
(vacant), Dep. Dir.
Shane Illies, Regional Program Mgr

Div of Quality Improvement Innovation Models Testing
Jade Perdue, Dir.
Brenda Gentles, Dep Dir.

Div of Transforming Clinical Practices
Rob Flemming, Dir
Shawan Johnson, Dep. Dir

Division of Kidney Health
Shalon Quinn, Dir
Melissa Dorsey, Dep Dir
Todd Johnson, Regional Program Mgr

Chiquita Brooks-LaSure
Administrator, CMS

Liz Fowler
Director, Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation

iQuality Improvement & Innovation Group
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Div of Transforming Clinical Practices
Rob Flemming, Dir
Shawan Johnson, Dep. Dir

Division of Kidney Health
Shalon Quinn, Dir
Melissa Dorsey, Dep Dir
Todd Johnson, Regional Program Mgr
Regularly scheduled calls to discuss programmatic/strategic issues:

- **Anita Monteiro**, Acting Group Director, iQuality Improvement & Innovation Group (iQIIG)
- **Shane Illies**, Acting Deputy Director, iQIIG
- **Paul McGann**, MD, CMS Chief Medical Officer for Quality Improvement
  - **Shalon Quinn**, Director, Division of Kidney Health, iQIIG
- **Melissa Dorsey**, Deputy Director, DKH, iQIIG
- **Todd Johnson**, Regional Program Manager, Div of Kidney Health, iQIIG
- CORs, ARAs, Central Office staff

Calls in 2020: 1/27, 3/16, 5/11, 7/6, 8/31, 10/26, 12/14
Calls in 2021: 2/22, 4/12, 6/7
In-person Meeting following CMS Quality Conference: 02/27/2020
Forum / CMS Leadership Calls
Highlights from 2020 and 2021

• Advancing American Kidney Health Initiatives: CMS desire for the ESRD Network program to be positioned to be actively involved in future activities of the AAKH Initiatives

• Anita Monteiro, Acting Group Director, iQIIG, thanked the Forum and ESRD Networks for their partnership in recent months to ensure quality of care for kidney patients during the COVID-19 PHE.

• The Kidney Transplant Learning Collaborative (previously under the ETC model within CMMI) has been moved to the DKH to better align with the work of the ESRD Networks.

• Forum concerns on behalf of the renal community regarding QIP Measures and the impact of COVID-19, leading to calls with QMVIG leadership

• CMS reported convening an executive session following the CMS Quality Conference (March 2021) to continue discussion around kidney transplantation.

• Forum request to CMS for consideration of a CMS presentation to Forum Board members on the health disparities identified during COVID-19 and the impact on ESRD patients
• Derek Forfang & Jenny Flythe, PhD, UNC: Presented an overview of “My Dialysis Plan”
• Network 2 Success Story: COVID-19 Pandemic Response Best Practices / Lessons Learned
• “Forum Resources supporting Network Vaccination Activities” Dave Henner, DO; Kam Kalantar, MD, MPH, PhD; Ralph Atkinson, MD
• KPAC presented the new patient-directed transplant toolkit “Is A Kidney Transplant Right For Me?”
  o *The Toolkit was a commitment made by the Forum leadership to CMS during the 2019 ETC Meeting*
• MAC presented the new Inpatient Dialysis Medical Director Toolkit
• KPAC shared their perspectives and experiences regarding safe transitions and barriers to home dialysis
CMS Communications Re: COVID

- Nurse & PCT shortages
- Telehealth waivers
- Transportation of COVID+ patients
- Shortage of CRRT fluids & supplies
- Vascular Access procedures
- Variability in Infection Control Surveys
- Data reporting at the national level
- Tracking Nursing Home residents in EQRS
- Transparency of sharing COVID test results between dialysis facilities/healthcare providers and nursing homes
- Triage of COVID+ patients
- Transplant metrics
- COVID testing priority for In-Center Dialysis patients
- Baxter & Delivery of home dialysis supplies
- Transplant patient concerns about symptoms & relieving anxiety
- Monitoring COVID-19 recovering and treating ESRD patients
- Vaccination tracking, prioritization for kidney patients, transplant patient efficacy
- Tracking lessons learned and preparing for future surges
Accomplishments / Successes from COVID calls

CMS Response to Forum/Network Concerns:
➢ Worked with ASPR and FEMA to increase production and sharing of CRRT fluids, deployed Tablo machines to NYC in April
➢ CMS statement re: vascular access surgery considered ‘essential’ during pandemic
➢ Communication with state surveyors to limit days on site and streamline survey processes to allow facilities to prioritize patient care during pandemic
➢ Increased transparency and data sharing between dialysis facilities and nursing homes regarding testing
  • COVID-19 Communication Form developed by Forum member to facilitate safe transfer of dialysis patients between SNF/PCH and dialysis facilities
➢ CMS communication with OCR regarding triage documents and the potential impact to CKD patients
➢ Federal collaboration between CDC and LDOs to prioritize vaccination access for kidney patients
➢ Forum leaders continue to advocate for more research on the efficacy of the COVID vaccine for kidney transplant patients

❖ Forum leadership worked with ANNA to launch the Nephrology Nursing COVID-19 Surge Support website to provide dialysis staff in hotspots.
### Google Analytics Forum Website: July 1, 2019 – February 28, 2020 (pre-COVID)

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### Google Analytics Forum Website: March 1, 2020 – May 24, 2021

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Forum Social Media Activity:

Facebook:
Followers:
Feb 2020 = 134
May 2021 = 275

Twitter:
Followers:
Feb 2020 = 95
May 2021 = 227

YouTube:
As of May 2021:
Subscribers = 6
Views of Transplant Video = 107
COVID Communication will continue

• Forum invited several key leaders in the kidney community to present during calls

• Forum leaders will continue to provide CMS DKH with updates on:
  o Rates of COVID testing for kidney patients
  o COVID positivity rates among kidney patients
  o Vaccination rates among kidney patients
  o Kidney transplant and waitlist rates
  o Network observations on COVID-related technical assistance
  o Kidney patient observations

Minutes, recordings, resources: [https://esrdnetworks.org/resources-news/covid-19-information-resources/](https://esrdnetworks.org/resources-news/covid-19-information-resources/)
What else has the Forum been working on?

- Drafted several letters in response to community concerns and proposed rules (see next slide)
- Recorded Webinars & New Resources available to Forum members and the kidney community (see next slides)
- Forum Members in the Community Highlight Forum Activities (see next slides)
- The Strategic Priorities, developed in 2018, will be reviewed in 2021 to ensure they remain relevant, and align with and support the activities of the new Network SOW.
- Finance Committee: monitoring Forum investments, identifying additional funding sources, strong financials continue into 2021
- Several COVID resources for patients were developed and are available on the Forum website.
- Updated the Forum Website platform, enhancing the Donate Button, a Memorials Page available soon
- Forum YouTube Channel
Forum Documents

https://esrdnetworks.org/resources-news/forum-position-papers-public-comments/

• MAC Letter to Joint Commission regarding patient consent for dialysis when admitted to a hospital (June 2020)
  o Followed by a Press Release expressing Forum position on Informed Consent for Established Dialysis Patients Admitted to Hospital (January 2021)

• Letter to the Quality, Safety & Oversight Group (QSOG), CMS and to the CMS iQIIG leadership regarding concerns and suggestions about COVID-19 (February 2020)

• ESRD PPS / QIP Proposed Rule (September 2020)

• Letter to CMS/CMMI re: KCC delay and ESCO extension (March 2021)
Recorded Webinars & Resources available on the Forum website

The Forum website was moved to a new updated framework in January 2021, the look and content remains relatively the same.

- DFC Provider Education Tool / Job Aide (Oct 2020) & DFC Patient Education Tool (Mar 2021)
  https://esrdnetworks.org/education/medicare-compare-educational-resources/
- Video for Patients: An overview of the KPAC Transplant Toolkit (Dec 2020)
  https://esrdnetworks.org/toolkits/patient-toolkits/is-a-kidney-transplant-right-for-me/
- Video: “Bridging the Gap: Lifetime Immunosuppressive Coverage for Kidney Patients (Feb 2021)
- Transitional Dialysis Care Operational Guide
  https://esrdnetworks.org/resources-news/transitional-dialysis-care-operational-guide/
- ASN / NTDS Online Learning Module: Managing Infections in an Outpatient Dialysis Facility
- Two new Sharing Highly Effective Practices Submissions
Forum Members in the Community
Presenting & Authors

• Presentation by Dr. Henner and Dr. Howard at the virtual NKF Spring Clinicals on March 28, 2020: “Quality Measures Controversies in the Dialysis QIP & DFC 5 Star Rating”  Recording available here: https://esrdnetworks.org/education

• K. Kalantar-Zadeh: (NEJM 7/9/20) “Ensuring Choice for People with Kidney Failure – Dialysis, Supportive Care, and Hope”

• D. Henner: Visonex Annual User Group Meeting (Aug 2020), provided an overview of the ESRD Networks and Forum role and resources

• D. Henner: NRAA Meetup (09/17/2020), panel discussion about Forum activities and materials

• D. Forfang: ASN Kidney Week (09/28/20), group presentation on patient safety by the Nephrologists Transforming Dialysis Safety (NTDS)

• D. Forfang Co-Author: (JISPD 11/11/2020) “Patient and Caregiver Perspectives on Burnout in Peritoneal Dialysis”

• D. Henner: NRAA Annual Meeting (12/01/2020), presenting on the Forum MAC Inpatient Medical Director Toolkit
• D. Edwards: Moderator, Home Dialysis Panel at NPFE Conference (Feb 2021)
• D. Forfang & KPAC Reps: Moderator, ESRD NCC “Making the COVID-19 Vaccine Decision: A Patient Panel Discussion” (Mar 2021)
• D. Edwards & K. Norris: accepted to the NIH/NIDDK Advisory Council
• K. Kalantar + MAC members: AJKD, “Inpatient Dialysis Services: Nephrologist Leadership and Improving Quality and Patient Safety” (April 2021)

KPAC Mission & Vision

**Mission:**
To support and advocate on behalf of the ESRD Networks and to improve the Quality 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.

March 2015
Kidney Patient Advisory Council
(as of 03/31/2021)

Network 1: Jerry Calabritto
Network 2: Stephanie Dixon
Dawn Edwards {Co-Chair}
Network 3: Bill Senior
Maria Casas
Network 4:
Network 5: Virna Elly
Patrick Gee
Network 6: Dolores McGrath
Network 7: Janice Starling
Network 8: Jacqueline Bland
Terry Peeler
Network 9: Evan Coaker
Network 10: Della Major
Quin Taylor
Network 11: Jeff Nelson
Network 12: Mike Bronson
Network 13:
Network 14: Precious McCowan
Network 15: Lynne Hall
Network 16: Nancy Hewitt-Spaeth
Lisa Custer
Network 17: Derek Forfang {Co-Chair}
Doris Lew
Network 18: Terry McCallum
EDAC Rep: Mary Albin (NW 8/14)
PSD Rep: Yessi Cubillo (NW 3)
Lisa Hall, MSSW, LICSW (NW 16)
KPAC Strategic Planning Committee

• Update KPAC Business Plan

• Top Priorities Include:
  o Develop a Toolkit on Heath Equity
  o Develop a Toolkit about Cardiovascular Disease & CKD
  o Develop short videos/webinars about KPAC resources and orientation materials for new KPAC members
  o Explore financial resources to help support the Forum Donations
Community Collaborations & Connections

- NKF Policy. KAC member participation
- AAKP Board and member participation
- DPC Board member
- New York State CKD Champions
- ASN: Kidney Health Initiative & Kidney X Reviewers, DKD Diabetic Kidney Disease Collaborative
- CDC: Making Dialysis Safer Coalition
- KCER
- ESRD NCC/MEI, NEPOP
- Forum MAC
- OPPUS aspects of peritonitis-related practices and outcomes
- DOPPS Webinar COVID-19 and chronic dialysis in the US: What’s happened so far and what’s next? An open conversation
- European Renal Best Practice (ERBP) Catheter Standards
- NIH/NIDDK: Patient Advisor on the HOPE Study & member of the Council
• Multiple Speaking/Presenting Engagements:
  o CMS Quality Conference (Patrick)
  o Alliance for Home Dialysis (Dawn)
  o SSA Disability and Transplant Panel (Dawn)
  o NIH HEAL Study on Opioid use (Dawn)
TEPs

- 2021 Impact Assessment of CMS Quality & Efficiency Measures Project & Federal Assessment Steering Committee (ongoing)
- Practitioner Level Opioid Safety (Dialysis Specific)
- ESRD DFC/Star Rating
- Hospital Star Rating
- ESRD PPS
- Development of CKD & ESRD Cost Measures for Use in CMMI Model
  - Development of a Quality Measure Assessing Delay in Progression of Chronic Kidney Disease
  - Effective Availability and Utilization of Home Dialysis Modalities
  - Practitioner Level Measurement of Effective Access to Kidney Transplantation
Patient Toolkits
Available at: https://esrdnetworks.org/toolkits

Current Toolkits:
• Dialysis Patient Depression Toolkit
• Dialysis Patient Grievance Toolkit
• Financial Help Resources
• “Is a Kidney Transplant Right for me?”
  ➢ New video available for patients providing an overview of the Transplant Toolkit, consider sharing with your patients!

New Toolkits:
• MAC Home Dialysis Toolkit: KPAC Chapter providing patient perspective and experiences
• Health Equity and Access to Quality Care Toolkit
• Cardiovascular Disease and CKD Toolkit
Subscribe: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC9Vp4Hfu7VmSTbSwG7-6e2g
Thank you!

Sincere Thank You to the Renal Networks and your staff members who encourage patients to join the KPAC and support the work of our Council and the Forum!

Please feel free to contact Derek or Dawn if you have questions, concerns, suggestions for the KPAC:

Derek: Derek.Forfang@gmail.com
Dawn: dawnpedwards@gmail.com
### Executive Director Advisory Council  
*(As of June 1, 2021)*

**Chair:**  
Brandy Vinson *(Nw 5)*

**Vice-Chair:**  
Vicky Cash *(Nw 9)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Network</th>
<th>Members</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Danielle Daley, MBA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Sue Caponi, MBA, RN, BSN, CPHQ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/4</td>
<td>Chris Brown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Brandy Vinson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Shannon Wright</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7/13/15/17/18</td>
<td>Helen Rose, MSW, BSW, LCSW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8/14</td>
<td>Mary Albin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Victoria L. Cash, MBA, BSN, RN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Audrey Broaddus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Diane Carlson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Stephanie L. Smith</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Stephanie Hutchinson, MBA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
• Executive Directors representing all 18 ESRD Networks
• Discuss issues affecting all Networks
• Determine gaps in knowledge and/or understanding
• Advise Forum Board, MAC and KPAC on areas that need to be addressed with CMS and Nephrology Community
• Share “best practices” and strategies for meeting/exceeding SOW deliverables and goals
2020 Network SOW

• Reduce Bloodstream Infections
• Increase the use of Home Modalities
• Increase Transplant Waitlist
• Population Health:
  • Reduce Hospitalization
  • Increase Vocational Rehab
• Also: Patient Engagement, Addressing Patient and Facility Concerns, Emergency Monitoring, Working with State Survey Agencies, Providing Technical Assistance
Transitions to Home

- National home dialysis performance has exceeded the national projection of 26,658
- Projections are based on 2019 denominators and ABC target rates

Data slides provided by the ESRD NCC
Transitions to Home

Performance by Network
January - October 2020

Circle size is proportional to Network denominator
Goal: 100% of Target Rate

Percent of Target Met = Actual Rate / ABC target rate

Data slides provided by the ESRD NCC
Vascular Access-LTC

- National observed LTC rate is greater than the target rate after 9 months.
- National LTC performance did not achieve the target of at least a 0.25% reduction using ABC methodology.

Data slides provided by the ESRD NCC
Vascular Access-LTC

Performance by Network
August 2020

Expected Goal
Lower is Better

Circle size is proportional to Network denominator
Goal: Distance to Target=0%

Data slides provided by the ESRD NCC
Barriers to Reducing LTC

All Networks shared their barriers to improvement with the NCC.

Data slides provided by the ESRD NCC
Additions to Transplant Waitlist

- National observed number of waitlist additions is less than the number expected after 9 months
- National transplant waitlist additions did not achieve the national projection of 20,422

Projections are calculated based on 2019 denominators and ABC target rates

Data slides provided by the ESRD NCC
Additions to Transplant Waitlist

Performance by Network
January - October 2020

Circle size is proportional to Network denominator

Goal: 100% of Target Rate

Expected National Progress
Barriers to Increasing Additions to Transplant Waitlist

All Networks shared their barriers to improvement with the NCC.

[Bar chart showing the most common barriers to transplant waitlist additions]

Other changes due to COVID: 33
Comorbidities: 32
Financial or insurance barriers: 31
Patient fears: 29
Patient compliance: 29
Communication barriers: 21
Patient preference or refusal: 19
Delays or cancellations: 14
Transportation issues: 14
Lack of family or caregiver support: 12
Travel distance: 5
Access to services: 4

Data slides provided by the ESRD NCC
COVID-19 Impact

Weekly Net Change in National Total Number of COVID+ Dialysis Patients

Source: Weekly KCER ESSR Reports
3-Month Extension #1

- December 1, 2020 – February 28, 2021
- 3 Areas of Focus
  - Response to COVID-19
    - Emphasis on dialysis patients that reside in nursing homes
  - Influenza vaccination
  - Technical assistance
  - Support NHSN
    - COVID reporting
    - Home dialysis providers
  - Improve transplant coordination & promote home dialysis
    - Home and transplant change packages
3-Month Extension #2

- March 1, 2021 – May 31, 2021
- 5 Areas of Focus
  - Response to COVID-19
    - Emphasis on dialysis patients that reside in nursing homes
    - Technical assistance
    - COVID-19 vaccination
  - Support NHSN
    - COVID reporting
    - Home dialysis providers
  - Improve transplant coordination & promote home dialysis
    - Home and transplant change packages
  - Annual Report
  - 2744
Requests for Proposals

- **ESRD Networks, KCER, NCC RFPs**
  - Released December 7 and 11
  - Proposals due January 6 and 7
  - 30 day transitions start May 1
  - Contracts start June 1, 5 years
  - Awards fully executed April 22

- **Technical Assistance, Quality Improvement, Learning (TAQIL) Contractor RFP**
  - Released March 4
  - Proposal due April 1
  - Contract starts June 1, 5 years
  - Award made TBD
2021 – 2026 SOW

Includes work on Five Goals:

1. Improve Behavioral Health Outcomes
   a. Increase Depression screening and follow up treatment

2. Improve Patient Safety and Reduce Harm
   a. Work with patients who dialyze in a nursing home to reduce access infection PD/LTC

3. Improve Care in High Cost/Complex Chronic Conditions
   a. Includes three focuses:
      ▪ Continued work on increasing transplant wait-listing and transplantation
      ▪ Continued work on increasing home therapy initiations and continuation of home therapy
      ▪ Lower COVID related Hospitalizations and work to improve ESRD compliance with Influenza, PCV and COVID vaccination

4. Reduce Hospital Admissions, Readmissions, and Outpatient ED Visits

5. Improve Nursing Home Care in Low Performing Providers – Utilizing high transfusion rates as a metric to improve care of ESRD patients in Nursing Homes
Continues Network Focus on:

1. Patient Experience of Care - Grievance management and Access to Care
2. Patient and Family Engagement – New metrics and heightened focus at patient involvement at the facility level
3. Improve the quality of the patient registry in EQRS – Metrics for improvement provided
4. Strategic Program Management for Network region
5. Emergencies and Disaster Responsibilities
Future Work – TAQIL

• Develop ETC Kidney Transplant Learning Collaborative
  • CMS, HRSA, Transplant Centers, OPOs, Largest Donor Hospitals, Patients, Donor Families
  • AIM 1- increase the number of deceased donor kidneys transplanted
  • AIM 2- Decrease the current national discard rate of all procured kidneys
  • AIM 3- Increase percentage of change for kidneys recovered for transplant in the 60-85 Kidney Donor Profile Index
MAC Report

Kam Kalantar-Zadeh, MD, MPH, PhD
Chair, MAC
ESRD Network 18
Medical Advisory Council (MAC)
Mission & Scope

Provide a consistent interpretation from the physician perspective of the challenging issues faced by the Networks and Forum Board.

Work with and through the Networks to generate QA/QI initiatives aimed at improving patient care.
Medical Advisory Council
(as of 06/01/2021)

Chair: Kam Kalantar-Zadeh, MD, MPH, PhD
Immediate Past Chair: David Henner, DO

Network 1: Daniel L. Landry, DO, FASN
Network 2: George Coritsidis, MD
Network 3: Keith Norris, MD, PhD
Network 4: Paul Palevsky, MD
Network 5: Marc Brazie, MD
Network 6: John J. Doran, MD, FASN
Network 7: (vacant)
Network 8: Mandeep Grewal, MD, MBA
Network 9: Anne Huml, MD, MS
Network 10: Andres Serrano, MD
Network 11: Louis Raymond, MD
Network 12: Preethi Yerram, MD
Network 13: Laura Rankin, MD
Network 14: Donald Molony, MD
Network 15: Harmeet Singh, MD
Network 16: John Stivelman, MD
Nw16 Alt: Christine Logar, MD
Network 17: Ramin Sam, MD
Network 18: Kam Kalantar-Zadeh, MD

Ad Hoc Member: Stephen Pastan, MD

EDAC Rep: Victoria Cash (9)
QID Rep: Barbara Dommert-Breckler (16)
KPAC Rep: Derek Forfang (17)
MAC Recent Activities

- Contributing to Forum Public Comments
  - MAC Letter to The Joint Commission (TJC) regarding ESRD patient consent for dialysis when admitted to a hospital (June 2020), followed by a Press Release expressing Forum position on Informed Consent for Established Dialysis Patients Admitted to Hospital (January 2021)
  - Letter to the Quality, Safety & Oversight Group (QSOG), CMS and to the CMS iQIIG leadership regarding concerns and suggestions about COVID-19 (February 2020)
  - ESRD PPS / QIP Proposed Rule (September 2020)

- Toolkits
- Other Resources for Physicians & Providers
  - Medication Conversion Guide
  - Immunization Data Collection Tool
- AJKD article April 2021, highlighting the MAC Inpatient Medical Director Toolkit and other Forum activities
- Pursuing opportunities to share Forum activities via social media and publications
# Conversion Guide for Hemodialysis Patients Visiting Dialysis Facilities

This is a Guide to be used to help convert dose of medication patient currently on, to one that is available or less costly.

**This is only a guide- any medication changes must be ordered by/approved by Nephrologist covering patient**

***This guide is being used to help better serve patients on dialysis, and therefore includes both Brand Names and generic names of medications. The use of brand names is to facilitate use of the tool.**

## Instructions on Use:

1. Look for current medication that you wish to convert in Column B and medication you wish to convert to in Column G and chose appropriate row that includes both.

2. Enter dose of current medication in column C (shaded green), and equivalent dose of medication you wish to convert to will be listed in column H (shaded red).

3. See column L for dose forms, and round dose in column H off to closest dose that can be used, using available dose forms in column L (check dialysis facility for dosage forms available)

4. Do not exceed maximum recommended dose of medication listed in column M, without specific written or electronic order entered by Nephrologist.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Current Medication</th>
<th>Enter Current Dose Here: Units</th>
<th>Route</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Substitute Medication</th>
<th>Equivalent Dose</th>
<th>Units</th>
<th>Route</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Substitute Med Dosage Form</th>
<th>Maximum Recommended Dose</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aranesp (Darbepoetin)</td>
<td>mcg</td>
<td>IV</td>
<td>Weekly</td>
<td>Epogen (Epoetin Alpha)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>units</td>
<td>IV</td>
<td>q Tx</td>
<td>2, 3, 4, 10, or 20,000 units/ml</td>
<td>175 units/kg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aranesp (Darbepoetin)</td>
<td>mcg</td>
<td>IV</td>
<td>Weekly</td>
<td>Mircera (Methoxy polyethylene glycol-eptoten beta)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>mcg</td>
<td>IV</td>
<td>q 2 Weeks</td>
<td>30, 50, 75, 100, 150, 200 mcg/0.3 ml</td>
<td>180 mcg q 2 weeks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calcitriol</td>
<td>mcg</td>
<td>PO/IV</td>
<td>q Tx</td>
<td>Hectrol (Doxercalciferol)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>mcg</td>
<td>PO</td>
<td>q Tx</td>
<td>2.5 mcg PO Capsule</td>
<td>20 mcg</td>
</tr>
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<td>mcg</td>
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<td>q Tx</td>
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<td>0</td>
<td>mcg</td>
<td>IV</td>
<td>q Tx</td>
<td>2 mcg/ml, 4 mcg/ml IV vials</td>
<td>18 mcg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calcitriol</td>
<td>mcg</td>
<td>PO/IV</td>
<td>q Tx</td>
<td>Zemplar (Paricalcitol)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>mcg</td>
<td>PO/IV</td>
<td>q Tx</td>
<td>2 mcg PO caps, 2 mcg/ml IV</td>
<td>16 mcg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Epogen (Epoetin Alpha)</td>
<td>Units</td>
<td>IV</td>
<td>q Tx</td>
<td>Aranesp (Darbepoetin)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>mcg</td>
<td>IV</td>
<td>Weekly</td>
<td>10, 25, 40, 60, 100, 200 mcg IV Weekly</td>
<td>200 mcg IV Weekly</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ferrlecit (Ferric gluconate)</td>
<td>mcg</td>
<td>IV</td>
<td>Weekly</td>
<td>Venofer (Iron Sucrose)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>mcg</td>
<td>IV</td>
<td>Weekly</td>
<td>20 mg/ml (2.5, 5, 10 ml)</td>
<td>100 mg IV q Tx</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>mcg</td>
<td>IV</td>
<td>q Tx</td>
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<td>mcg</td>
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<td>q Tx</td>
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</tr>
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<td>Hectrol (Doxercalciferol)</td>
<td>mcg</td>
<td>IV</td>
<td>q Tx</td>
<td>Calcitriol</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>mcg</td>
<td>IV/PO</td>
<td>q Tx</td>
<td>0.25, 0.5 mcg PO, 1mcg IV</td>
<td>4 mcg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hectrol (Doxercalciferol)</td>
<td>mcg</td>
<td>PO</td>
<td>q Tx</td>
<td>Hectrol (Doxercalciferol)</td>
<td>0</td>
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<td>q Tx</td>
<td>2, 3, 4, 10, or 20,000 units/ml</td>
<td>175 units/kg</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# Immunization Data Collection Tool

## Instructions:
Use the codes at right to indicate immunization status for influenza, pneumococcal pneumonia, and hepatitis B. Codes 3, 7, 9, and 10 indicate opportunities to improve individual patient immunization status.

### Immunization Codes:
1. **YES**, received at this facility
2. **YES**, received at another location
3. **YES**, but surface antibody negative after 1 series (Hep B only)
4. **YES**, but persistently anti-Hbs negative after 2 vaccine series (Hep B only)
5. **NO**, surface antigen positive (Hep B only)
6. **NO**, patient immune (Hep B only)
7. **NO**, not received, pt refused
8. **NO**, not received, pt allergic
9. **NO**, not offered or other reason
10. **Unknown**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Immunization</th>
<th>Influenza</th>
<th>Prevnar (PCV-13)</th>
<th>Pneumovax (PPSV-23)</th>
<th>Hepatitis B</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Patient Name</td>
<td>During the current influenza season (enter code 1, 2, or 7-46)</td>
<td>Received 13-valent vaccine at least 6 weeks prior to PPSV-23 (enter code 1, 2, or 7-46)</td>
<td>Received 23-valent vaccine in last 5 years (enter code 1, 2, or 7-46)</td>
<td>Date Most Recent dose MM/DD/YYYY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------</td>
<td>-----------</td>
<td>------------------</td>
<td>---------------------</td>
<td>-------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patient 1</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Patient 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Patient 3</td>
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<td>Patient 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Patient 5</td>
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**The National Forum of ESRD Networks**
Racial Disparities Involuntary Discharges (IVD)
Collaboration with CMS Division of Kidney Health

Chronology of events

• Nov 2020 meeting with CMS’ Dr Steven Preston: Higher rates of IVD among Black dialysis patients
• Limited access to data and involvement of Dr Kalantar’s research group via DUA with ESRD-NCC
• Preliminary data in the form of an ASN abstract submitted on June 2, 2021
Professional Toolkits

Advocating for the organizations that monitor the quality of chronic kidney disease, dialysis and kidney transplant care in the USA.

Welcome to the Forum of ESRD Networks website

ESRD Networks - contact information

Donate

The National Forum of ESRD Networks, Inc. is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization #13-3246354. Your donation is tax deductible to the extent allowable by law. No goods or services will be provided by the Forum in return or consideration for this contribution. Donations can also be mailed to the Forum Office at PO Box 203, Birchwood, WI 54817.

Donate now

What's new on the Forum website?

Learn about the new Transplant Toolkit for Patients

https://esrdnetworks.org/toolkits/professional-toolkits/
Provider Toolkits
Available at: https://esrdnetworks.org/toolkits

- Inpatient Medical Director Toolkit
- Kidney Transplant Toolkit
- Transitions of Care Toolkit *
- Vaccination Toolkit *
- *Outpatient* Medical Director Toolkit *
- Home Dialysis Toolkit *
- Catheter Reduction Toolkit
- QAPI Toolkit

Suggested toolkits for the future:
- Conservative management toolkit
- Improving Disparities in Involuntary Discharges

*See next slide for specific updates to these Toolkits*
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MAC Toolkit Updates</th>
<th>Tasks &amp; Progress to Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Home Dialysis Toolkit | Add:  
  • AAKH related to Home Dialysis  
  • CfC updates re: staffing  
  • Emergency mgmt. of home dialysis patients  
  • Impact of ESCO, ETC Model, Voluntary Models on home therapies  
  • Enhanced modality education  
  • Emerging Technologies, impact and benefits to home therapies  
  • Addressing disparities and access to care  
  • Patient perspective: KPAC Chapter, empowering patients to be successful with home therapies |
| Outpatient Medical Director Toolkit | Add:  
  • Emergency Preparedness  
  • COVID  
  • Leadership |
| Transitions of Care Toolkit | Add:  
  • Nursing Home Communication Tool  
  • COVID  
  • Medication Reconciliation  
  • Transfer Summary Forms updated to include Flu & COVID vaccine status |
| Vaccination Toolkit | Add:  
  • COVID Vaccination  
  • Dave updated Vaccination Tracking Tool to include COVID vaccine and pneumococcal booster + age so facilities can track patients < 64 YO for PPSV-23 booster |
Mark Your Calendars!!

2021 MAC Annual Meeting
Wednesday, November 3rd
San Diego, CA
Financial Highlights

Stephanie Hutchinson, MBA
Treasurer
ESRD Network 16
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>(as of 05/31/2021)</th>
<th>(as of 05/31/2020)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chase Bank Checking</td>
<td>16,708.03</td>
<td>35,732.64</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chase Bank Savings</td>
<td>6,122.35</td>
<td>6,121.95</td>
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<tr>
<td>Investments</td>
<td>635,061.95</td>
<td>571,080.79</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Assets</strong></td>
<td>$ 657,892.53</td>
<td>$ 612,935.38</td>
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Forum Finances Over Time
November 2010 – December 2020

Dollars

- Nov-10: $798,351
- Dec-11: $778,214
- Dec-12: $739,238
- Dec-13: $740,289
- Dec-14: $709,913
- Dec-15: $639,735
- Dec-16: $614,383
- Dec-17: $612,897
- Dec-18: $561,127
- Dec-19: $603,271
- Dec-21: $672,344

The chart shows the finances of a forum over a period from November 2010 to December 2020.
Forum Financial Highlights

• 2021 Budget Approved
• 990 Extension filed, prepared to meet new Nov. due date
• All 2021 Membership Dues Received
• Investments rebalanced to align with Forum Financial Investment Policy
• Finance Committee leading the “Resource Identification” priority identified for Strategic Planning
  ○ $50,000 received via Donate Button between Fall 2019-Dec 2020 when Strategic Priorities were initiated
Final Thoughts

Q&A
On the Horizon in 2021

• Advancing American Kidney Health
• Update Strategic Planning priorities
• Updates to MAC Toolkits
• Two new KPAC Toolkit
• Building community awareness
• 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
• New videos to provide information about the role of the Forum/Networks and available resources. Subscribe to our new YouTube Channel: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC9Vp4Hfu7VmSTbSwG7-6e2g
Forum Website Updates

Welcome to the Forum of ESRD Networks website

What's new on the Forum website?

Learn about the new Transplant Toolkit for Patients

This 12-minute video provides an overview of the Toolkit

Is A Kidney Transplant Right for Me?
Donate to National Forum of ESRD Networks

Select an amount to donate

- $25
- $50
- $100

Other

- Dedicate my donation in Honor or in Memory of someone
  - in honor of
  - in memory of
  - Person you're honoring/memorializing

Message

Notify someone of your donation

Continue

What's new on the Forum website?

Donate

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Donate now

Advocating for the organizations that monitor the quality of chronic kidney disease, dialysis and kidney transplant care in the USA.
The Forum is committed to supporting the activities of the ESRD Networks and improving care for all kidney patients. We have a variety of free educational materials on our website and more under development. We are a non-profit organization and do all this through volunteer members and limited financial resources. Consider a donation today to support this work. All donations are tax deductible.

Donate Here
https://esrdnetworks.org/donate

Forum of ESRD Networks
PO Box 203
Birchwood, WI  54817

Dee LeDuc, Coordinator
forumcoord@centurytel.net
715-354-3735
Use the “Question” box on your GoToWebinar 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 after the webinar.
Questions / Comments:
Dee LeDuc, Forum Coordinator
forumcoord@centurytel.net

Forum website:  http://esrdnetworks.org/
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Tag us in your tweets:  @ESRDNetworks
Sharing something about the K PAC?  Use #KPACPatientVoice