

Thank You for Joining  
the Webinar

We'll be Getting Started  
Shortly



Let's Get to Know Each Other...

What is your  
favorite holiday?

*Put Your Answer in  
Chat*

## Who Wants to Play a Little Trivia?

On average, what is the thing that  
Americans do 22 times in a day?

*Put Your Answer in  
Chat*

**Answer**

Open the refrigerator

Let's Get to Know Each Other...

What movie defined  
your generation?

*Put Your Answer in  
Chat*

**Who Wants to Play a Little Trivia?**

**When did the website  
"Facebook" launch?**

*Put Your Answer in  
Chat*

**Answer**

**2004**

Let's Get to Know Each Other...

What is your go-to  
karaoke anthem?

*Put Your Answer in  
Chat*



Who Wants to Play a Little Trivia?

True or False.

An eggplant is a vegetable.

*Put Your Answer in  
Chat*

**Answer**

**False**

Let's Get to Know Each Other...

What month were  
you born?

*Put Your Answer in  
Chat*

**Who Wants to Play a Little Trivia?**

**In America, what became the 49th state to enter the union in 1959?**

*Put Your Answer in  
Chat*

**Answer**

**Alaska**

Let's Get to Know Each Other...

What is your most used  
phone app?

*Put Your Answer in  
Chat*

**Who Wants to Play a Little Trivia?**

**What is the rarest  
M&M color?**

*Put Your Answer in  
Chat*

**Answer**

**Brown**



Let's Get to Know Each Other...

Team egg salad, tuna salad,  
or pasta salad?

*Put Your Answer in  
Chat*

**Who Wants to Play a Little Trivia?**

**How many colors are there in a  
rainbow?**

*Put Your Answer in  
Chat*

**Answer**

**Seven (7)**

Thanks for playing along

Let's Get Started...





End-Stage Renal Disease  
Network Program

# CMS Priorities, Goals, and Quality Improvement Activities

IPRO ESRD Network Program  
Network Council Meeting

June 16, 2022



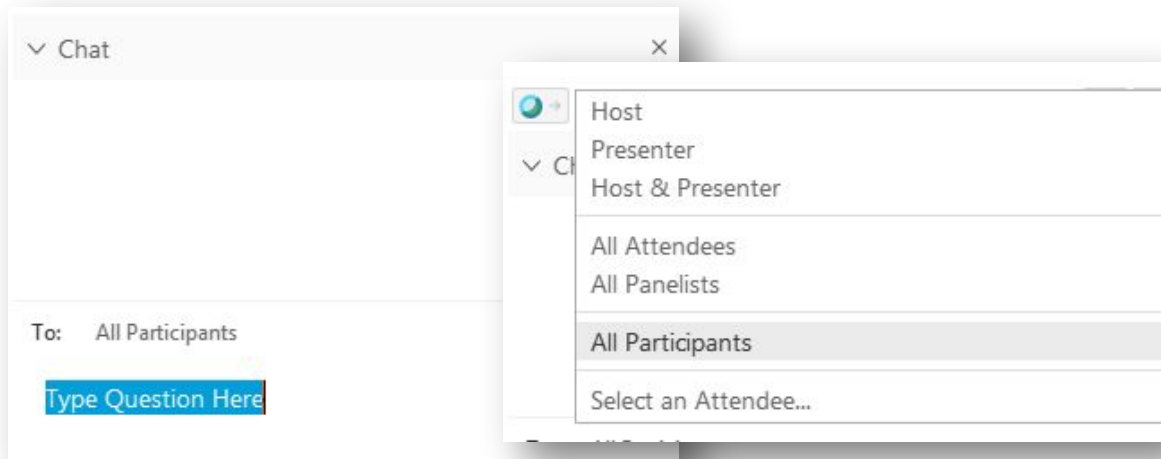
# Welcome and Opening Remarks

**Danielle Daley, MBA**  
**Executive Director**  
**ESRD Network 6 (GA, NC, SC)**



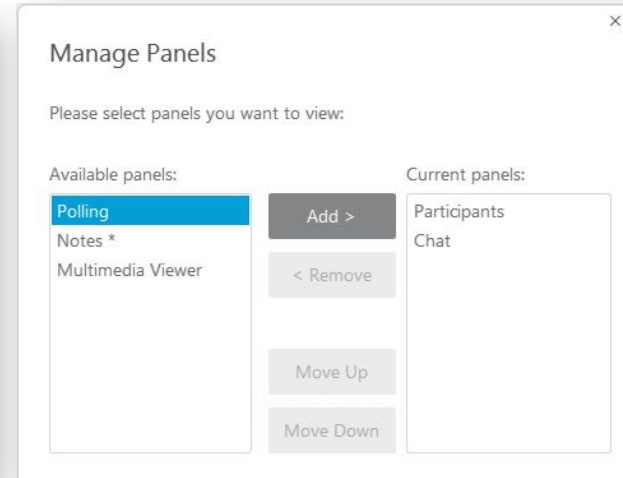
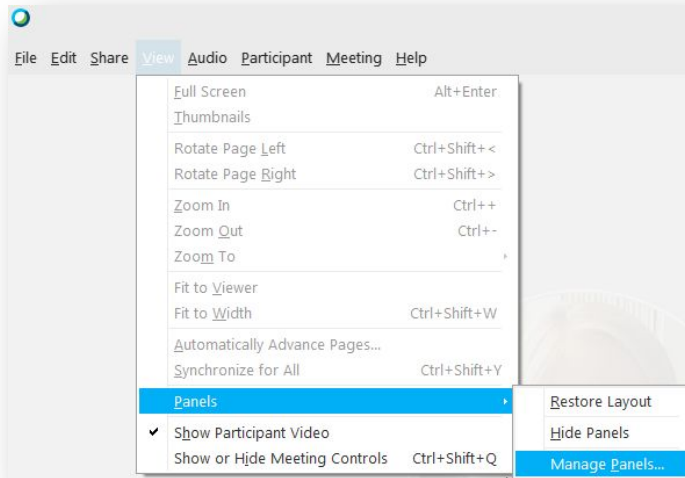
# Meeting Reminders

- This WebEx will be recorded and slides made available on the Network Website
- All phone lines have been muted to avoid background noise
- Be present and engaged in the presentations
- Be prepared for active participation in the WebEx chat board



# Meeting Reminders

- Be prepared for active participation in polling questions





# Agenda Topics

- Welcome
- ESRD Program Administration
  - Overview of CMS Statement of Work
  - Participation/Conditions for Coverage (CfC)
- Social Determinants of Health
- IPRO Learn
- ESRD Data Systems and Quality
- National Initiatives (Goals, Education, Interventions)
  - Quality Improvement
  - Patient Services
- Emergency Management
- Closing Remarks/Next Steps



# ESRD Program Administration

**Sue Caponi, MBA, RN, BSN, CPHQ**  
**CEO, ESRD Network Program**  
**Executive Director, ESRD Network 1 (CT, MA, ME, NH, RI, VT)**  
**and ESRD Network 2 (NY)**

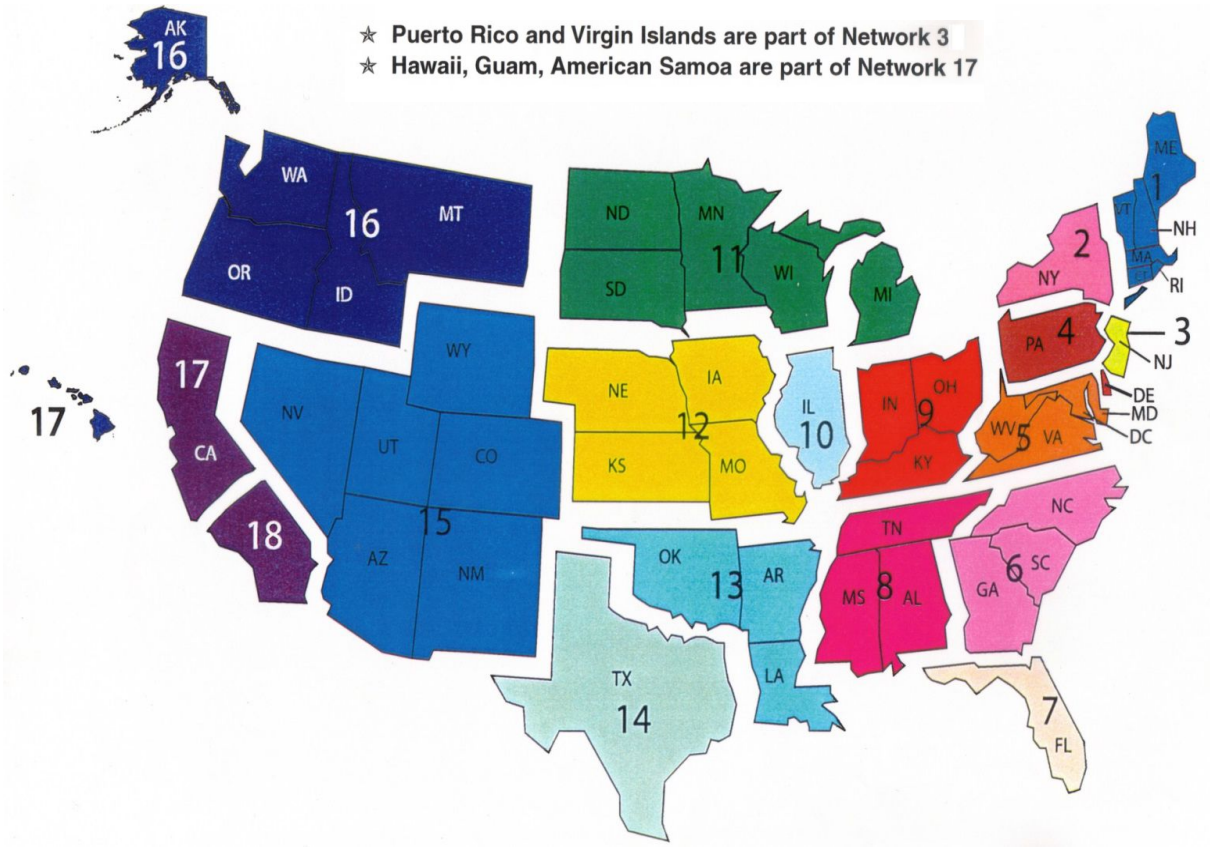


# IPRO Capabilities

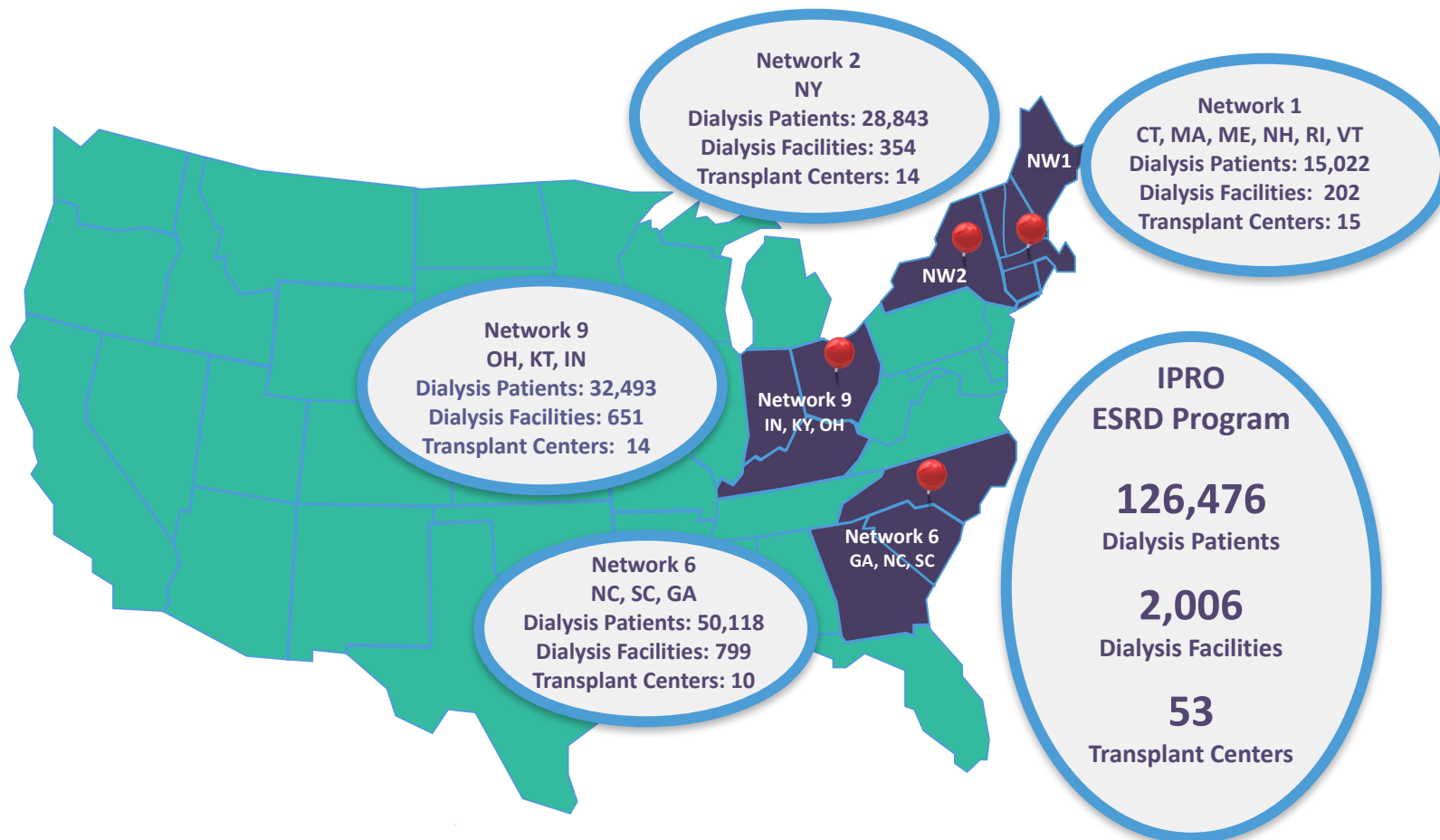
- Founded in 1984
- Not-for-profit organization
- Holds contracts with federal, state, and local government agencies
- Provides services to enhance healthcare quality to achieve better patient outcomes
- Proven track record of excellence, culture of innovation, and breadth of expertise
- Implementation of innovation programs that bring policy ideas to life
- Creative use of clinical expertise, emerging technology and data solutions to make healthcare systems work better
- Headquartered in Lake Success, NY



# ESRD Networks



# IPRO ESRD Network Program Network Service Areas





# Mission Statement

The Mission of the IPRO End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) Network Program is to promote health care for all ESRD patients that is safe, effective, efficient, patient-centered, timely, and equitable.

# CMS Priorities, Goals, and QIAs

## ESRD Statement of Work (SOW)

- Contract Cycle: June 1, 2021 – April 30, 2026
- Priorities and goals align with NQS and CMS initiatives designed to result in improvements in the care of individuals with ESRD
- Quality Improvement Activities (QIAs) incorporate one or more of the CMS 16 Strategic Initiatives  
<https://www.cms.gov/About-CMS/Story-Page/unleashing-innovation>
- Networks deploy interventions that target patients, dialysis/transplant providers, other providers, and/or other stakeholders
- QIAs incorporate a focus on rural health, health equity, and vulnerable populations
- Grounded on the concepts and design of Section 1881 of the SSA, HHS Secretary's Priorities, Executive Order to launch Advancing American Kidney Health (AAKH), ESRD Treatment Choices (ETC) Payment Model, and the ETC Kidney Transplant Learning Collaborative

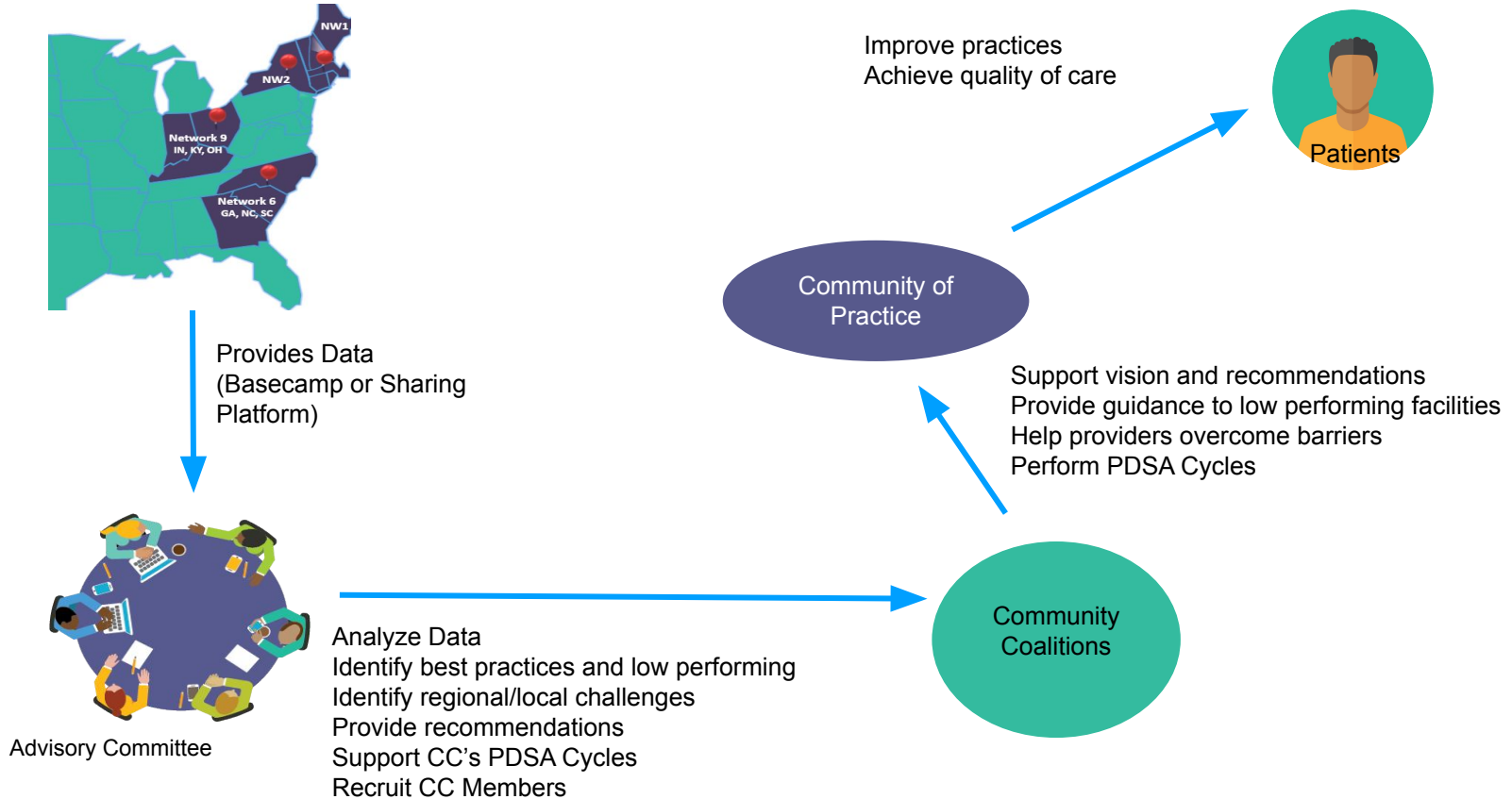
# CMS Priorities, Goals, and QIAs

## ESRD Statement of Work

- Supports achieving 25 quality improvement data driven goals
- 8 Advisory Groups with supporting coalitions conducting 6 month PDSA cycles
- 20% of Network Service Area Patient Record Data Audit Annually
- Networks deploy interventions that target patients, dialysis/transplant providers, other providers, and other stakeholders
- QIAs incorporate a focus on health equity, rural health and vulnerable populations



# Network Processes - From Advisory Committee to a Community of Practice



## ESRD Conditions for Coverage (CfC)

- The CMS Federal Register cites Network-specific goals and the dialysis facility's responsibility toward achieving these goals
- State Survey Agencies utilize these goals and initiatives as a guideline for evaluations
- Goals are achieved through the implementation of Quality Improvement Activities (QIAs) to be launched at the dialysis facility level, which are tracked and reported to CMS
- Participation in Network activities is a condition of approval to receive Medicare reimbursement for the provision of End Stage Renal Disease services
- Failure to comply may result in sanctions by CMS

# Network and Provider Role

Aligned to Improve the Lives of Those Living with Kidney Disease

## Network Role

- Improve quality of life by reaching the goals outlined by CMS for ESRD population
- Ensure patients have access to care and the patient experiences care in an atmosphere of respect and safety
- Maintain the data quality of national datasets utilized to monitor ESRD (EQRS, NHSN)
- Support the ESRD community during emergency events

## Provider Role

- Work with the Network to reach goals outlined by CMS in all areas of quality improvement outlined
- Provide a dialysis setting that is safe, respectful and ensures access to care
- Support accurate and timely data entry into EQRS and NHSN
- Collaborate with the Network to ensure all patients receive ESRD care during an emergency event

# Health Equity

**Danielle Andrews, MPH, MSW**  
**Project Manager-Health Equities Specialist**



**weitzman**  **institute**  
inspiring primary care innovation



# Health Equity Check-In

- **Do you wear glasses?**
  - Yes
  - No





# Health Equity Check-In

- **Have you ever had to order specialty frames (not lenses)?**
  - Yes
  - No





# Health Equity Check-In





# Health Equity Check-In

- **Do you think health inequities exist within an average dialysis facility?**
  - Yes
  - No
  - Unsure



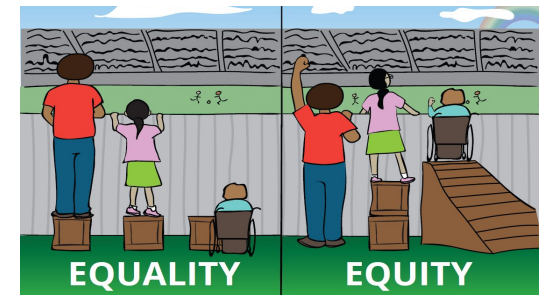




# What is Health Equity?

According to the World Health Organization (WHO) health inequalities are systematic differences in healthcare outcomes.

- Equity is the absence of unfair, avoidable or remediable differences among groups of people, whether those groups are defined socially, economically, demographically, or geographically or by other dimensions of inequality (e.g. sex, gender, ethnicity, disability, or sexual orientation). Health is a fundamental human right. **Health equity is achieved when everyone can attain their full potential for health and well-being.**
- **Health Inequities:** are differences in health status or in the distribution of health resources between different population groups, arising from the social conditions in which people are born, grow, live, work and age.





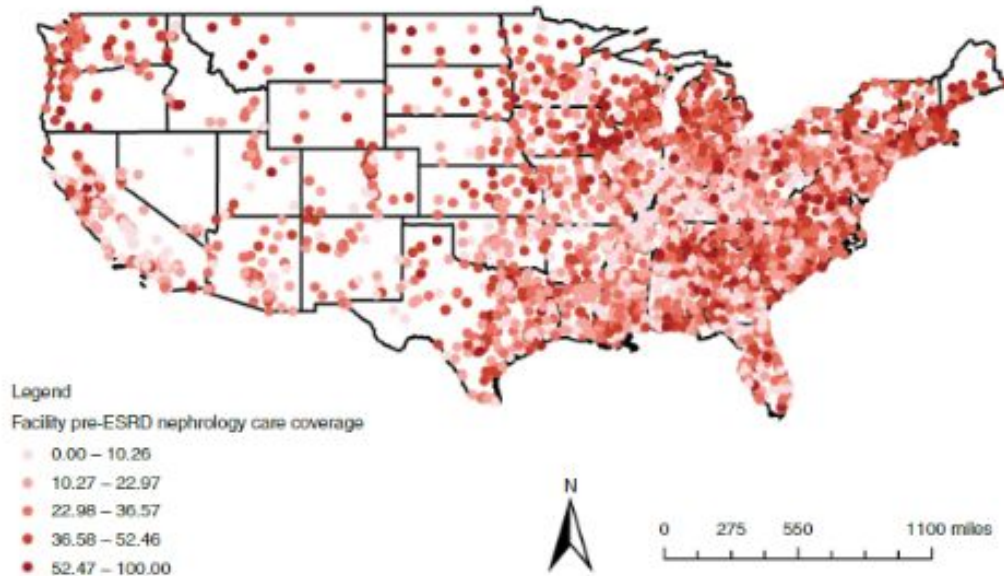
# Social Determinants of Health

According to the World Health Organization (WHO) health inequalities are systematic differences in healthcare outcomes.

- **Social Determinants of Health (SDOH):** conditions in places where individuals live, learn, work, and play that affect a wide range of health and quality of life, risks and outcomes.
  - Economic Stability
  - Education Access and Quality
  - Healthcare Access and Quality
  - Neighborhood and Built Environment
  - Social and Community Context
- **Examples of SDOH:**
  - Safe housing, transportation, and neighborhoods
  - Racism, discrimination, and violence
  - Education, job opportunities, and income
  - Access to nutritious foods and physical activity opportunities
  - Polluted air and water
  - Language and literacy skills



# Social Determinants of Health-Access to Care



**Figure 1 | Variation in pre-end-stage renal disease nephrology care by quintile in dialysis facilities across the US (N=5,387).**

Lowest quintile of pre-ESRD nephrology care facilities, SaTScan most likely clusters



# Social Determinants of Health-Access to Care

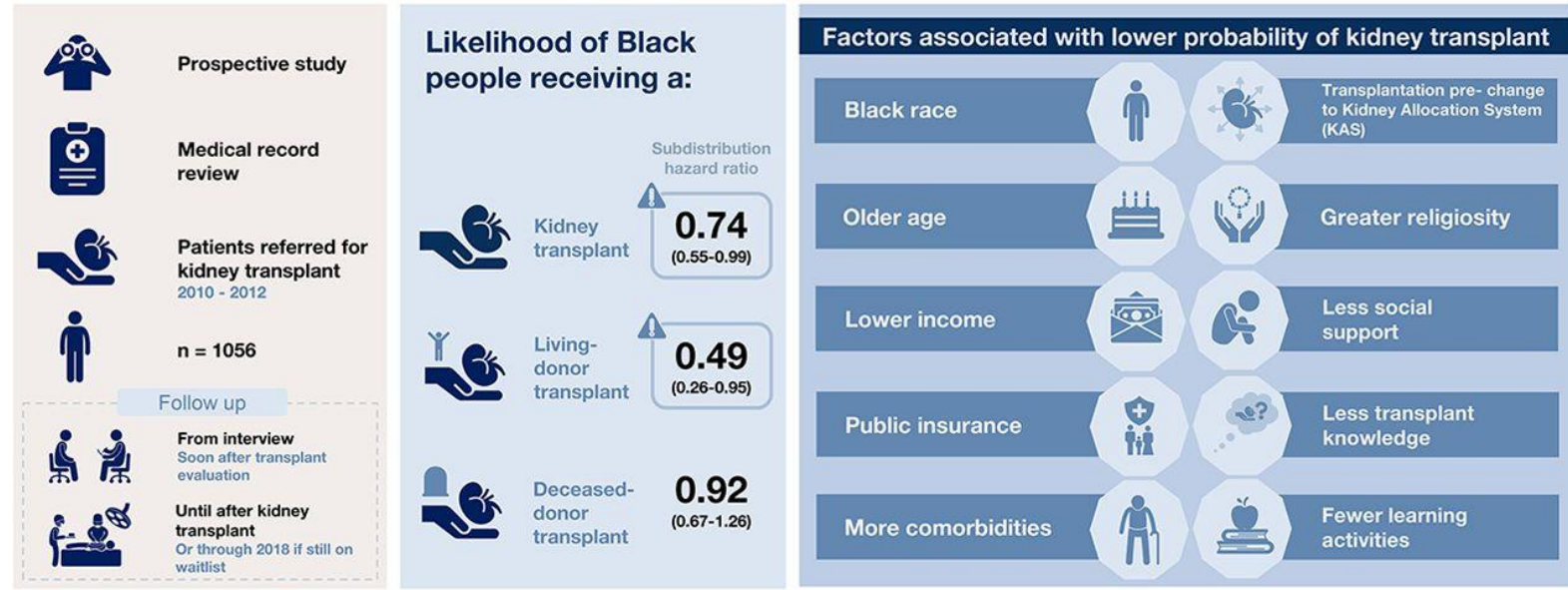
- Large urban and rural counties see lower percentages of patients receiving pre-ESRD nephrologist care compared to suburban and medium/small urban counties (Yan et al., 2013).
- Females, whites, non-Hispanics, and older patients are more likely to receive pre-ESRD nephrology care (Hao et al., 2015).
- Low socioeconomic status and low educational attainment (fewer than 12 years) are associated with a higher prevalence of ESRD (Quiñones, 2020)
- Low educational attainment, African American race, poverty, and unemployment are all associated with lower rates of kidney transplantation (Hao et al., 2015).



# Health Equity and Transplant

**CJASN**  
Clinical Journal of the American Society of Nephrology

## Which demographic and social factors predict the likelihood of receiving a kidney transplant?



**Conclusions** Race and social determinants of health are associated with the likelihood of undergoing kidney transplant.

Hannah Wesselman, C. Graham Ford, Yuridia Leyva, et al. *Social Determinants of Health and Race Disparities in Kidney Transplant*. CJASN doi: 10.2215/CJN.04860420. Visual Abstract by Michelle Lim, MBChB, MRCP



# Health Equity Check-In

- **Have you ever heard of or discussed intersectionality?**
  - Yes
  - No
  - Unsure



# Health Equity and Intersectionality



The concept of intersectionality describes the ways in which systems of inequality based on gender, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, class and other forms of discrimination “intersect” to create unique dynamics and effects.

- All forms of inequality are mutually reinforcing and must therefore be analyzed and addressed simultaneously to prevent one form of inequality from reinforcing another. For example, tackling the gender pay gap alone – without including other dimensions such as race, socio-economic status and immigration status – will likely reinforce inequalities among women. (Intersectional Justice, 2022)



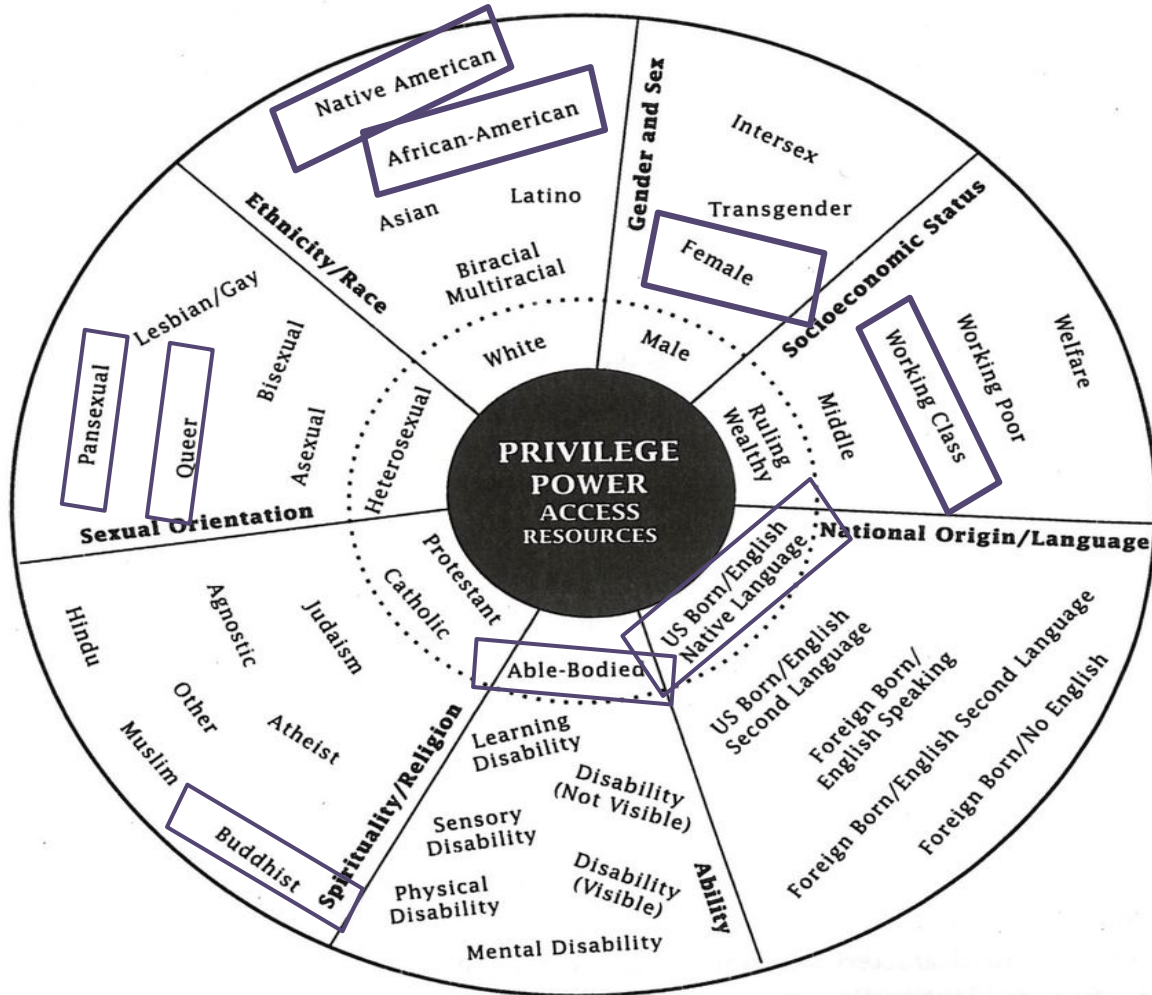
# Health Equity Check-In

- **Have you previously utilized intersectionality to develop patient specific health plans?**
  - Yes
  - No
  - Unsure





# Intersectionality and the Web of Oppression



# Health Equity Sample Data from IPRO Learn



- 348 Facilities responded
- 26% of patients do NOT have a primary care provider
- 18% of facilities are located in food desert
- 85% Financial Reasons: Largest barrier identified by patients to following renal/diabetic/cardiovascular prescribed diets
- 61% Transportation: Largest barrier identified by patients to becoming/remaining active on the transplant waitlist
- 71% Limited space to host home therapy supplies or set-up: 2nd Largest barrier identified by patients on transitioning to home therapies
- 77% Experienced Mistrust in Healthcare System or Medical Racism: Top reason for vaccination hesitancy



# Questions?



# IPRO Learn

**Svetlana Lyulkin, MBA**  
**Director of Information Management**







# Why Utilize IPRO Learn

- To Participate in Monthly Network Quality Improvement Activities through the ESRD Facility Quality Improvement Collaborative
- Explore Toolkits which contain nationally vetted resources for multiple quality improvement initiatives
- Share and learn Best Practices
- To obtain CEs for professional development
- To learn about upcoming events and educational offerings
- For patient education on Network involvement and training to perform in the role of Peer Mentor

# IPRO Learn 2022 - 2023

Two types of logins to  
<https://learn.ipro.org/>

1. Network-assigned facility  
Login/Password
  - For facility-level Quality Improvement Activities
  - Cannot be changed
  - Should be shared between staff
2. Personal user account 
  - For earning IPRO Learn-issued CEs
  - For Peer Mentor training




Username / email

Password

Remember username

Log in

Forgotten your username or password?

Cookies must be enabled in your browser 

Is this your first time here?

Create new account



Dashboard

Content bank

My Courses

CE: Home Modalities

CE: Vaccinations

ESRD Facility QI Collaborative 2021-2022

Patient Facility Representative Alliance

Patient Peer Mentoring

Site administration

# Welcome to IPRO Learn!

## ESRD Facility Quality Improvement Collaborative 2021-2022

Enter all CMS-Certified Dialysis Facilities to participate in annual Quality Improvement Activities.



## ESRD Patient Facility Representative Alliance

Patient Facility Representatives/Subject Matter Experts who submit the PRF Application for Participation & Confidentiality Form will receive the **Enrollment Key** for this Course from their facility.



## Continuing Education (CE) Courses for Professionals

Use your **personal login** (not your Facility login) to **earn 1 CE (Continuing Education)** if you are an **RN, LPN, Dietitian, and Dialysis Technicians.**



Facility Name appears here

## Earn CEs in IPRO Learn!

Available to you 24/7. Click to learn how.



**Get Started with IPRO Learn** by watching this 5-Minute Onboarding Tutorial!

## Update Your Personnel Contact Info in the: IPRO ESRD Facility Contact Management System



Username: **IPROESRD**  
Password: *your facility CCN*

*Detailed Facility Contact Management Job Aide (Caspio)*

# ESRD Facility Quality Improvement Collaborative 2021-2022

Dashboard / My Courses / ESRD Facility QI Collaborative 2021-2022




## What's New / Recent Announcements

 New Resource Available: Free COVID-19 At-Home Tests

 New Resource Available: Affordable Internet

## To Do / Required Activities for June - Due June 30, 2022

May 2022 Data Entry is now Closed! Please complete June 2022 Activities by 6/30/2022

 Important QIA Information Session 6/16/22: Register Today for the IPRO ESRD Network Council Webinar

 General: Annual Facility Critical Asset Survey (CAS) for 2022 [100% completion required in REDCap]

## Achieving CMS Goals Using Quality Improvement Toolkits

 Behavioral Health Toolkit

 COVID-19 Toolkit

 Increasing Home Modality Rates Toolkit

### Discussion Board

QIA Best Practices



### 2021-2022 News & Announcements Library



### QI Toolkits

- Behavioral Health Toolkit
- COVID-19 Toolkit
- Home Modality Rates Toolkit
- Transplant & Waitlist Rates Toolkit
- Vaccination Rates Toolkit
- Patient & Family Engagement Toolkit
- Patient Safety in Nursing Homes Toolkit
- Peer Mentorship Toolkit
- Hospitalizations Toolkit
- \*NEW\* Telehealth/Telemed Toolkit

### Patient Opportunities



Help your patient become an active participant as an:

- IPRO PFR Alliance: Patient Facility Representative
- NCC Patient Peer Mentor

### Update Your Personnel Contact Info in the: IPRO ESRD Facility Contact Management System



**WATCH OUT FOR TYPOS**

Username: **IPROESRD**  
Password: *your facility CCN*

*Detailed Facility Contact Management Job Aide (Caspio)*

### Need Help?

Submit questions about how to use **IPRO Learn** or any of the course materials electronically through the **IPRO Customer Support Portal**.

Do not include any PHI/PII (SSN, MBI, DOB, FName/LName)





# ESRD Facility Quality Improvement Collaborative

## Benefits of IPRO Learn include:

- Facility group login allows for divide and conquer approach to Network Activities
- All activities/resources posted to one site with consistent due-date to complete (fewer emails/reminders)
- Eliminates multiple-submissions (saves facilities time)
- Facilities able to provide feedback easily to Network'
- On Demand availability for everyone to use



# IPRO Learn Participation

- Completion of Activities fulfills the facility's Network participation requirements to meet your conditions for coverage.
- All submissions are received and reviewed by dedicated QI Leads in the Network
- Activities blanket all areas of quality improvement that CMS is targeting improvement in ESRD.
- Facilities who are enrolled in a Community Coalition will have specific assignments.
- All activities need to be reviewed by a member of the facility
- **Split up the work between expert teammates. This should not all be done by 1 person.**



- Dashboard
- Content bank
- My Courses
- CE: Home Modalities
- CE: Vaccinations
- ESRD Facility QI Collaborative 2021-2022
- Patient Facility Representative Alliance
- Patient Peer Mentoring
- Site administration

## Welcome to IPRO Learn!

ESRD Facility Quality Improvement Collaborative 2021-2022

Enter all CMS-Certified Dialysis Facilities to participate in annual Quality Improvement Activities.



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*Detailed Facility Contact Management Job Aide (Caspia)*

# ESRD Patient Facility Representative Alliance

Dashboard / My Courses / Patient Facility Representative Alliance



## What's New / Recent Announcements

Welcome to the **IPRO ESRD Patient Facility Representative (PFR) Alliance!**

**Click Here** to access resources that provided foundational information on the PFR Alliance, the different tiers, and the associated responsibilities.

We are thrilled to collaborate with you!

PFR Alliance Newsletters:

Patient Voice-Expert Thoughts



- **September 2021**
- **October 2021**
- **November 2021**
- **December 2021**

## PFR Training

 PFR Alliance Orientation

 Patient Facility Representative January 2022 Meeting Recording

 Patient Facility Representative February 2022 Meeting Recording

Need Some Help?

Email **ESRDNetworkProgram@ipro.us** and put "PFR IPRO Learn Question" in the Subject line.



## To Do / PFR Activities

- |  |                                     |
|--|-------------------------------------|
|  Patient Experience of Care (PEOC): Improve PEOC by Resolving Grievances                | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|  Behavioral Health: Your Mind and Your Body: Talking to Your Doctor about Mental Health | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
|  Wallet Cards to Help Avoid Hospitalizations  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|  Living Donor Transplant: Your Best Option  | <input type="checkbox"/>            |



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- Instructions for creating a personal account:  
<https://iproesrdnetwork.freshdesk.com/support/solutions/articles/9000212344-earning-ces-in-ipro-learn>

# **EQRS Reporting**

**Svetlana Lyulkin, MBA**  
**Director of Information Management**



# Improve the Data Quality of the Patient Registry in the ESRD Quality Reporting System (EQRS)

- CMS EQRS Data Management Guidelines Require:
  - **Admits** within 5 business days of starting treatment
  - **2728 Forms** submitted within 45 days of 'New ESRD' Admit Date
  - **2746 Forms** submitted within 14 days of 'Date of Death'

- Network sends monthly Reports to key personnel
- Rates monitored by CMS, goals adjusted based on Network-National performance

- EQRS Possible Duplicate or Near Match Form:

<https://redcap.ipro.org/surveys/?s=9FN3KF8A7I>

End-Stage Renal Disease Network Program  
esrd.ipro.org

### Possible Duplicate Or Near Match Patients Form

Please complete the fields below if you received the Possible Duplicate Patient error message or Near Match error message in EQRS.

Upon submission the Network will evaluate the data and admits the patient in EQRS within 2 business days of receipt.

REDCap is provisioned by IPRO via Amazon Web Services GovCloud. The IT infrastructure that AWS provides to its customers is designed and managed in alignment with best security practices and a variety of IT security standards.

Contact E-Mail <small>* must provide value</small>	<input type="text"/>	<small>Should the Network require additional information or clarification in regards to the record entered; no PHI/PII will ever be transmitted via e-mail.</small>
Network Number <small>* must provide value</small>	<input type="text"/>	

#### Information to Process Patient

Unique Patient Identifier (UPI, If you know)	<input type="text"/>
Patient's First Name <small>* must provide value</small>	<input type="text"/>



# EQRS Data Accuracy for Better QIA Outcomes

- (Most) QIA data from EQRS / connected to EQRS patient info
- Batched data not 100% accurate 100% of the time
- Inaccurate EQRS data → poor QIA performance → more assigned QIAs:
  - Missing admissions/discharges (Monthly Patient Roster Verification)
  - Incorrect modalities/treatment settings (EQRS Cleanup Reports)
  - Incomplete/late clinical submissions (Missing Clinical Verification)
  - QIA performance not where expected (Monthly QIA Facility Report)
- Maintain timely EQRS data
- Ensure staff access to EQRS
- Review Reports sent by the Network
- Submit questions to FreshDesk:  
<https://iproesrdnetwork.freshdesk.com/support/tickets/new>





# IPRO Knowledge Base/FreshDesk

<https://help.esrd.ipro.org/support/home>

IPRO End-Stage Renal Disease Network Program

Home Solutions Tickets

How can we help you today?

Enter your search term here...

New Support Ticket Check Ticket Status

### Knowledge base

ESRD Systems Support

Data Systems Security (2) Help Desk Support (5)

- PII, PHI and HIPPA Security Require...
- Data System Security Training Reso...
- ESRD Network Support
- Dialysis Facility Key Personnel Upd...
- EQRS - QualityNet Help Desk
- Facility Contact Management Job Ai...
- IPRO ESRD Critical Asset Survey (C...

ESRD Network Quality Improvement Activities

General QI Information (6)

- Documenting Patient Influenza (flu) ...
- Required Clinical Data Values for EQ...
- Vascular Access Types and Definitions
- How to get CEUs for NCC LAN Calls
- Conditions for Coverage for ESRD Pr...

Solution home / EQRS - ESRD Quality Reporting System / EQRS Access, Training, and Support

## Improving Facility EQRS Data Submission Compliance

Modified on: Wed, Nov 3, 2021 at 6:49 PM

Share this recording and PDF slides with your team so your facility can achieve CMS requirements for EQRS Data Compliance.

Improving Facility EQRS Data Submission Compliance

IPRO ESRD Network Program

Watch on YouTube

IPRO End-Stage Renal Disease Network Program

Home Solutions Tickets

### Submit a ticket

Name \*

Phone Number (with no spaces or dashes)

Email Address \* Email

Add cc

Network \* ...

CCN (CMS Certification Number) \*

Facility Name \*

Topic \* ...

Subject (Brief Description / Action Requested) \*




# I PRO ESRD Facility Contact Management System (Caspio)

- Maintain correct contact info to receive Network Reports
- <https://c1abd801.caspio.com/dp/4ebb7000068d9ae2c0504631875a>
- Login: **I PRO ESRD**
- PW: ***your facility CCN***

Knowledge Base Job aid:

<https://help.esrd.ipro.org/support/solutions/article/s/9000210454-facility-contact-management-job-aid-caspio->



End-Stage Renal Disease

I PRO ESRD Network Program

The I PRO ESRD Facility Contacts Management System is the Network's source for facility personnel contact information. Sign in to the system to review and make changes to staff associated with your facility.

Login ID: I PRO ESRD  
Password: Facility 6 digit CCN number

Once logged in you will be able to add, edit, and delete facility staff information.

If you need additional assistance, please submit a ticket using [I PRO ESRD Customer Support Portal](#).

Login ID <sup>?</sup>

Password/CCN No. <sup>?</sup>

Login

# Quality Improvement

**Deb DeWalt, MSN, RN**  
**Quality Improvement Director**



# National Clinical Objectives and Key Results (OKRs)

## Goal 1: Improve Behavioral Health Outcomes

- Increase Remission of the Diagnosis of Depression

## Goal 2: Improve Patient Safety and Reduce Harm

- Reduce catheter infection rate in patients receiving home dialysis within nursing homes

## Goal 3: Improve Care in High Cost/Complex Chronic Conditions

- Home and Transplant modality, telemedicine and vaccinations



# National Clinical Objectives and Key Results (OKRs)

## Goal 4: Reduce Hospital Admissions, Readmissions, and Outpatient Emergency Visits

- Reduction in all areas

## Goal 5: Improve Nursing Home Care in Low-Performing Providers

- Decrease the Rate of Blood Transfusions in ESRD Patients Dialyzing in a Nursing Home



# Strategic Program Requirements: Improve Patient and Family Engagement

## Improve Patient and Family Engagement at the Facility Level

- Increase the number of facilities that successfully integrate patients and families concerns into Quality Assurance and Performance Improvement (QAPI)
- Increase the number of facilities that successfully assist patients to develop a life plan
- Increase in the number of facilities that successfully develop and support a peer-mentoring program



# Improve Behavioral Health Outcomes

**Andrea Bates, MSW, LSW**  
**QI Project Lead**



# GOAL 1: Improve Behavioral Health Outcomes

## C.3.1 Increase Remission of Diagnosis of Depression

### OY1 Year Goals:

- Increase the percentage of patients accurately screened for depression by 30%
- Increase the percentage of patients with depression receiving treatment by 20%
- Ensure 80% of all facilities report results of monthly screenings

### Project Period:

- May 1, 2022 – April 30, 2023

### Data:

- Data entry in EQRS (CMS data system of record).

**Base Year Outcomes:** No data available. Qualitative assessment expected

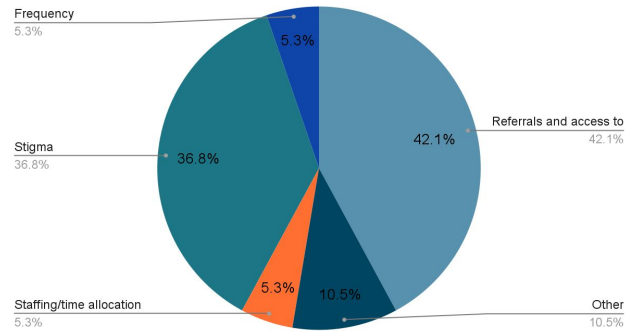
**Activities:** Conducted an RCA, Developed tools and shared specific services on IPRO Learn



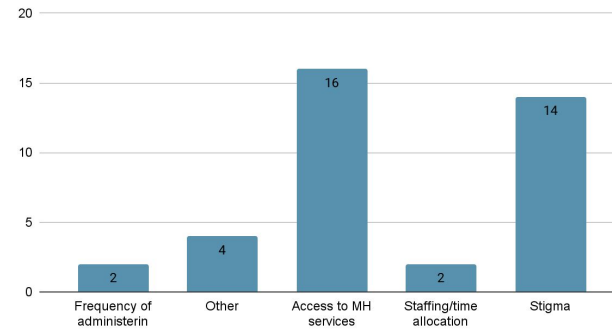
# Root Cause Analysis Results

## Barriers to Mental Health Referrals

Reported Barriers



Identified Issues



1. Referrals and access to mental health care
2. Stigma associated with a mental health diagnosis
3. Other (misc. category)



# IPRO Learn Interventions and Resources

### Zone Tool Self-Management for Depression

**GREEN ZONE**

**GREEN ZONES: ALL CLEAR**  
Your Goals:

- Stable mood
- Sleeping well
- Healthy appetite
- Feeling hopeful
- Able to concentrate

**GREEN ZONE ACTION STEPS:**

- Having some fun
- Engage in activities you enjoy
- Your symptoms are under control
- ✓ Continue taking your medications as ordered
- ✓ Keep all physician appointments

**YELLOW ZONE**

**YELLOW ZONE: CAUTION means your symptoms are starting to Change**  
The following symptoms may be early warning signs that your depression is worsening

- Sad mood most of the time
- Not eating/eating too much
- Trouble concentrating
- Not sleeping well/sleeping too much
- Not finding pleasure in normal activities
- Increase in feelings of irritability/anger
- Loss of energy to do chores/activities
- Not taking medications as prescribed
- Missing physician appointments

**YELLOW ZONE ACTION STEPS:**

- Call your physician into the YELLOW ZONE
- Your symptoms may an adjustment of your
- Begin to use identify talking to a trusted gardening, needlew etc....

**Physician Name:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Phone Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**RED ZONE**

**RED ZONES: MEDICAL ALERT**

- Overwhelmed by feelings of sadness/despair
- Feeling hopeless and/or helpless
- Thoughts or feelings of killing or harming yourself
- Unable to leave the bed
- Not eating
- Not sleeping
- Stopped taking medications
- Missing physician appointment

**RED ZONE**  
This indicates evaluated by \_\_\_\_\_

**Get help immediately  
RED ZONE. Call the nearest emergency National Suicide 1.800.273.8255**

**◆◆◆◆ YOUR MIND AND YOUR BODY TALKING TO YOUR DOCTOR ABOUT MENTAL HEALTH**

**HALF OF ALL ADULTS WILL STRUGGLE WITH A MENTAL HEALTH PROBLEM IN THEIR LIFETIME. PRIORITIZING YOUR BRAIN HEALTH IS AS IMPORTANT AS PRIORITIZING YOUR BODY HEALTH. ARE A SET OF QUESTIONS TO HELP YOU GET STARTED.**

- ◆ 46% percent of people say that they won't bring up a problem if their provider doesn't ask.
- ◆ 59% of people are afraid of how their providers would respond if they had a mental health concern.
- ◆ 63% of adults didn't know how to bring up mental health or how to explain what they were experiencing.

It's ok and normal to feel nervous about talking about your problems. But reaching out for help is the next step. How will getting help and talking about these concerns make a big difference in your life?

◆ 64% of adults didn't know if mental health concerns were enough of a problem to mention, for example, if they should wait to see if things got worse.

When you think about your mental health, what experiences are most bothersome to you?

How do these symptoms get in the way of doing things you want to do? OR What would you do if you didn't have these symptoms?

◆ 67% reported they were afraid to talk about mental health concerns or admit that there was a problem.

Findings cited in blue boxes are based on survey responses of adults over age 35 with chronic physical and mental health conditions on mhcareening.org.

## COPING, LIVING, AND THRIVING WITH KIDNEY DISEASE



## Dialysis Patient Depression Toolkit

*Tell us what you think! Please take a moment to complete a short questionnaire about this Toolkit. We appreciate your insight and suggestions to make our resources better.*  
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ForumRedVal>

**THE NATIONAL FORUM OF ESRD NETWORKS**

KIDNEY PATIENT ADVISORY COUNCIL (KPAC)  
09/13/2018

**End-Stage Renal Disease Network Program**  
esrd.ipro.org

**Facility Guide to Entering the Clinical Depression Assessment in EQRS**

**Why does CMS want facilities to report the Clinical Depression status of patients in EQRS?**  
Depression has been identified as the most commonly diagnosed mental illness within the community. This is due to newly diagnosed patients having to come to terms with living chronic disease and the adjustments and shifts made in their daily lives. Depression is a decrease in quality of life, an impairment in social and occupational function, and an increased risk of mortality and morbidity. Because of this, the EQRS system requests dialysis facilities report that their patients have been screened for depression and follow-up plans have been developed if applicable.

**Depression scale tool may facilities use?**  
It not specify a specific screening tool however any specific screening tool not specific to dialysis (e.g. KIDDOOL) is not considered a screening tool for the purpose of measuring Depression. Below are some of the screening tools facilities may utilize.

**Patient Health Questionnaire (PHQ-9, PHQ-2, PHQ-A)  
Center for Epidemiologic Studies Depression (CES-D 10)  
Beck Depression Inventory (BDI)  
Hamilton Depression Rating Scale (HDRS)  
Geriatric Depression Scale (GDS)**

**When are facilities required to submit clinical depression and follow up plan assessment?**  
Facilities must submit data for each eligible patient at least once every calendar year. The assessment period is from January 1st to December 31st of each calendar year at which this data will enter their data. There is a two-month grace period past the assessment ending on February 28th to complete reporting.

**When are patients required to be reported on?**  
Reporting is only required for: 1.) Patients 12 years of age or older, 2.) Patients who have been at your facility for 90 days or longer, 3.) Facilities with a minimum of eleven eligible patients.

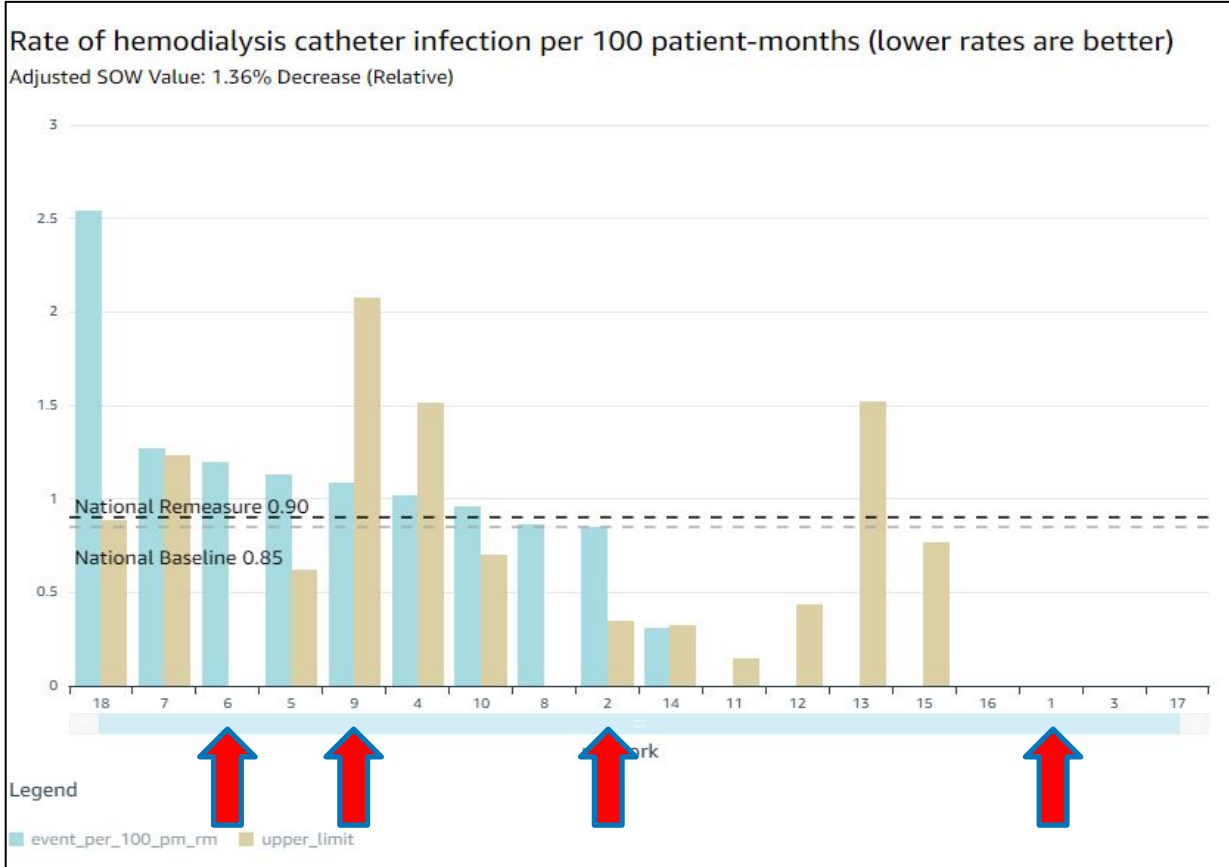
# Improve Patient Safety and Reduce Harm/Improve Nursing Home Care

**Kathy Cunningham, BS Ed, RN, CNN  
QI Project Lead**



# GOAL 2: Improve Patient Safety and Reduce Harm

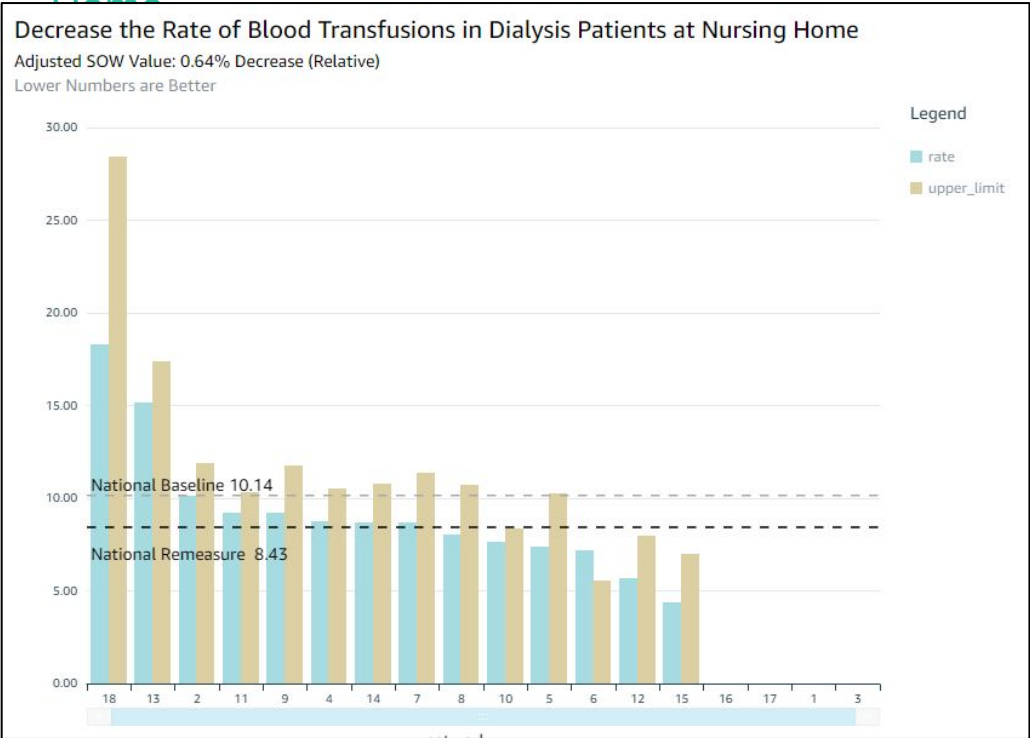
## Reduce catheter infection rate in patients receiving home dialysis within nursing homes



- Baseline: June 1, 2020 through April 30, 2021
- Goal: 4% reduction in catheter infection rates in patients receiving home dialysis nursing homes
- Re-Measure: June 2021-April 30, 2022
- Data Source: Claims Data & EQRS
- Goal Met: NW 9, NW1 N/A
- Five Year Goal – 40% reduction
- Peritonitis – 29% reduction in 5yrs \* No PD catheters in use

# GOAL 5: Improve Nursing Home Care in Low-Performing Providers

## Decrease the Rate of Blood Transfusions in ESRD Patients Dialyzing in a Nursing Home



- Baseline: June 1, 2020 through April 30, 2021
- Goal: 2% decrease of the Rate of Blood transfusions in Dialysis Patients who dialyze in Nursing Homes
- Re-Measure: June 1, 2021-April 30, 2022
- Data Source: Claims Data & EQRS
- Goal Met: Nws 2 and 9, NW 1 N/A
- Five Year Goal – 20% reduction



# Current Resources on IPRO Learn



Better healthcare, realized.

End-Stage Renal Disease Network Program

## Care of the Frail Elderly: Considerations for the ESRD Nursing Home Patient

### Hemodialysis Central Venous Catheter Scrub-the-Hub Protocol

This protocol outlines a suggested approach to preparing catheter hubs prior to accessing the catheter for hemodialysis. It is based on evidence where available and incorporates theoretical rationale when published evidence is unavailable.

#### Definitions:

**Catheter** refers to a central venous catheter (CVC) or a central line

**Hub** refers to the end of the CVC that connects to the blood lines or cap

**Cap** refers to a device that screws on to and occludes the hub

**Limb** refers to the catheter portion that extends from the patient's body to the hub

**Blood lines** refer to the arterial and venous ends of the extracorporeal circuit that connect the patient's catheter to the dialyzer

#### Catheter Connection and Disconnection Steps:

4. Always handle the catheter hubs aseptically. Once disinfected, do not allow the catheter hubs to touch nonsterile surfaces.
5. Attach sterile syringe, unclamp the catheter, withdraw blood, and flush per facility protocol.
6. Repeat for other limb (this might occur in parallel).
7. Connect the ends of the blood lines to the catheter aseptically.
8. Remove gloves and perform hand hygiene.

#### Disconnection Steps:

1. Perform hand hygiene and don new clean gloves.
2. Clamp the catheter (Note: **Always** clamp the catheter before disconnecting. Never leave an uncapped catheter unattended).
3. Disinfect the catheter hub before applying the new cap using an appropriate antiseptic (see notes).
  - a. (Optional) Disinfect the connection prior to disconnection. If this is done, use a separate antiseptic pad for the subsequent disinfection of the hub.
  - b. Disconnect the blood line from the catheter and

## Guide: EQRS Patient Info Verification

Edit Treatment Information (07/26/2021)

### Dialysis Treatment Information

#### Treatment Start Date \*

Month: 07 Day: 26 Year: 2021

#### Primary Dialysis Setting \*

Home  
Dialysis Facility/Center  
SNF/Long Term Care Facility

#### Dialysis Time Period

[Dropdown menu]

2019 Open with Microsoft Edge

## Transitions of Care 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 challenges in transitions of care and suggestions to help create solutions.

Tell us what you think!  
Please take a moment to complete a short questionnaire about this Toolkit. We appreciate your insight and suggestions to make our resources better.  
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ForumResEval>

THE NATIONAL FORUM OF ESRD NETWORKS

Forum Medical Advisory Council (MAC)  
The Forum of ESRD Networks  
First Publication: 12/01/2015  
Revised: 03/09/2017  
Revised, Transient Templates: 04/12/2019

# Improve Care in High Cost/Complex Chronic Conditions: Home Dialysis



## GOAL 3: Improve Care in High Cost/Complex Chronic Conditions

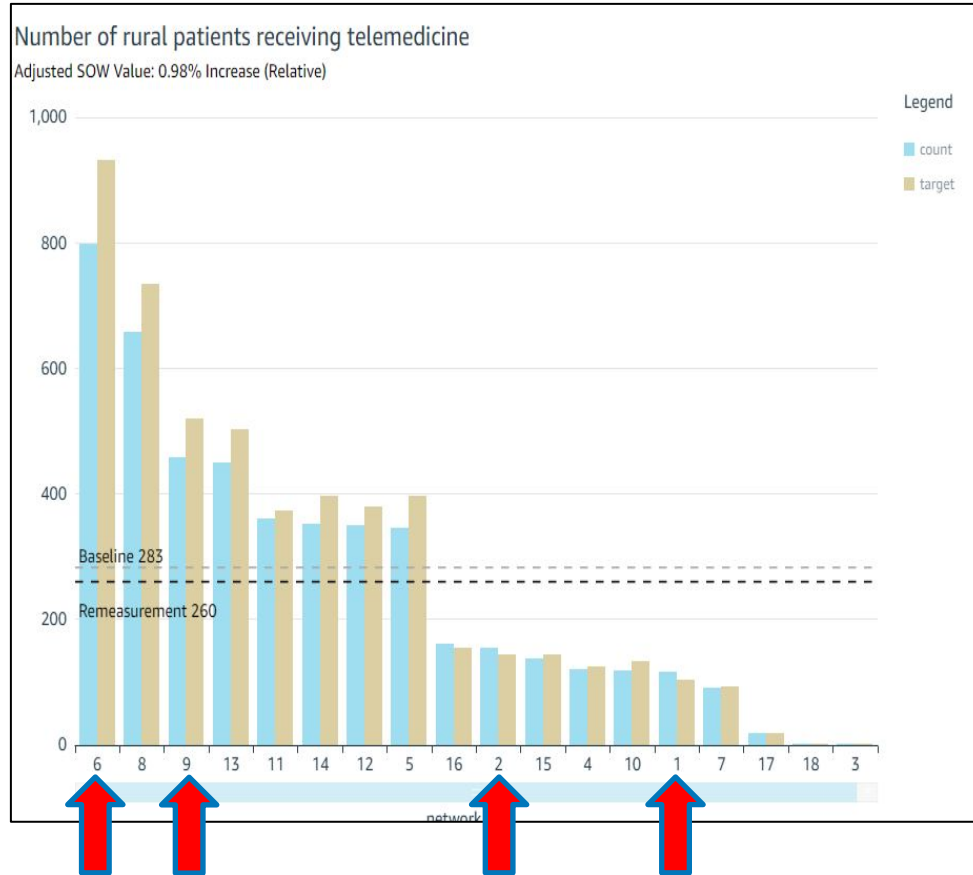
### Increase Incident and Prevalent Patients to Home Dialysis Modality





### GOAL 3: Improve Care in High Cost/Complex Chronic Conditions

## Increase in rural patients using telemedicine to access a home modality



- Baseline: June 1, 2020 through April 30, 2021
- Goal: 2% increase in rural patients using telemedicine to access a home modality
- Re-Measure: June 1, 2021-April 30, 2022
- Data Source: Claims Data & EQRS
- Goal Met: NWS 1 and 2

# Improve Education and Access to Empower Patient Choice of Home Modality



## Facility Intervention/ Resources

IPRO End-Stage Renal Disease Network Program

**Why Advocate for a Home Therapy for Your Patients?**

Susan Swan-Blohm  
2021

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mXjdSeW3Pjs>

**HOME DIALYSIS CENTRAL**  
A program of the non-profit

Can people travel on dialysis? Chris Greene's Thrive On Story

Watch later Share

Watch on



# Improve Education and Access to Empower Patient Choice of Home Modality

## Patient Resources Intervention/ Resources



### Home Dialysis Patient Telehealth Visit Checklist

Important Topics to Cover During Your Monthly Clinic Visit Through Telehealth

#### Did you know?

Once you have successfully dialyzed in your home for three months you may decide to use telehealth for two out of every three clinic visits with your dialysis team.

#### Choosing to Use Telehealth for Home Dialysis.

The telehealth visit will include all members of the dialysis team including your doctor, nurse, social worker and dietitian to provide you with a complete monthly clinic visit without leaving your home. If you are unsure how to have a visit with your dialysis team using telehealth, ask your facility manager or social worker for educational resources or assistance.

#### Be Prepared! Prior to the visit, collect this information to share with the home dialysis team

- Take and record current vital signs including your weight \_\_\_\_\_, Blood Pressure \_\_\_\_\_, Pulse \_\_\_\_\_, Temperature \_\_\_\_\_
  - Are there changes in your vital signs from your normal baseline now or during your treatment? Highlight any changes on your flow sheets.
- Identify any changes concerning your wellbeing and write them down, examples include sleep issues, changes in bowel habits, mental health concerns/ability to cope, or change in appetite, etc.
- Review your flow sheets and make a list of questions about your treatment that you want to discuss. Make sure you have access to your monthly electronic flow sheet records or paper copies.
- Your doctor may want to review the following items with you:
  - Number of treatments completed/week
  - Dialysis prescription
  - (PD only) Fill / drain volumes, % dextrose used, dwell times, and number of exchanges
  - Your vital signs before and after treatments
  - Symptoms during therapy
  - Alarms and your response to them
  - Dry weight assessment
  - Lab results
- Do you need any support handling
  - Machine problems
  - Supply issues
  - Your home set up
  - Dietary concerns
  - Insurance, transportation, financial, or social support issues
- Be prepared to show your dialysis team your access or catheter site using the camera on your device, such as a smartphone, tablet, or laptop (this may require a care partner to help with the camera.)
  - If you cannot do this, you could use a cell phone to take pictures and forward them to the team for review.



### Kidney Patient Care: Your Guide to Using Telemedicine



#### What is telemedicine?

Telemedicine simply means having a medical appointment in another way—not in person.

You can have a telemedicine visit with your healthcare team by phone or by using virtual technology. Technology connects you with your healthcare team by using a:



It makes it possible for your doctors or other healthcare professionals, to have a medical visit with you no matter where you are.

#### Why are people talking about telemedicine now?

Because of Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19), the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) changed the rules on telemedicine. They made it easier for patients to get care in a new way—from home. This means that everyone, especially people at higher risk, can see their doctors and stay healthy. And it means less risk of getting, or spreading, the COVID-19 virus. Medicare, Medicaid, and private insurance will pay for many different types of telemedicine care. You can see doctors, nurse practitioners, psychologists, and licensed clinical social workers with telemedicine.

Telemedicine may also be called telehealth. There are slight differences in these two words, but they mean similar things. Telemedicine is when a healthcare worker gives medical care or education from a remote location. The technology used to deliver the medical service to patients is referred to as telehealth. In this guide, we will use the word telemedicine.

### Do you know your home treatment options?



#### HOME DIALYSIS...

##### Peritoneal Dialysis (PD)

###### PD Benefits in Brief

**Needle-free.**

A catheter is used for treatments.

**Portable.** Take it with you.

**Flexible.** Choose treatment times that fit your needs and lifestyle.

**Freedom.**

Eat and drink more of what you like.

**Kidney Function.** PD may help you keep your remaining kidney function longer than standard hemodialysis.

##### Home Hemodialysis (HHD)

###### HHD Benefits in Brief

**More Energy.**

Get more dialysis and feel better.

**More Control.**

Eat, drink, and have visitors during treatments.

**Better Access.**

Lasts longest when you put in your own needles.

**Better Survival.**

You may live just as long as if you received a deceased donor kidney transplant.

#### What type of support would be provided by the dialysis facility?

- A home nurse will provide one-on-one training until you are comfortable to dialyze at home.
- Your clinic will be available to you 24/7, either in the facility or by phone.
- You will make visits to the home facility for lab tests and evaluations.
- The home nurse will assist in organizing your home with supplies needed for dialysis treatments.



End-Stage Renal Disease Network Program


continued on next page

IPRO, the End-Stage Renal Disease Organization for the Network of New England, Network of New York, Network of the South Atlantic, and Network of the Ohio River Valley, prepared this material under contract with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), an agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. CMS Contract Number: 75FCM219D0029. CMS Task Order Numbers: 75FCM21F0001 (Network 1), 75FCM21F0002 (Network 2), 75FCM21F0003 (Network 6), 75FCM21F0004 (Network 9).




# Benchmarking Performance

## Facility Performance Score Cards



### Home and Transplant Modalities Report



Report includes EQRS Data as of: 1/31/2022

Measure	NW Rate	National Rate
Home: Transitions	4.1%	5.7%
Home: Incidents	14.7%	13.72%
Txp: Transplanted	1.8%	2.0%
Txp: Waitlisted	3.8%	3.4%

### Home Modalities Quality Improvement Activity

For the Increasing Home Modality Quality Improvement Activity, the Network assigned a Goal for each facility based on prior years' performance. If there is no data displayed below, then facility had 0 Transitions and/or Incidents since June 2021.

Home Modality Measures are defined as:

- Transition to a Home Modality includes patients who transition from any modality to a home modality (home hemodialysis, CAPD, CCPD).
- Incident patients are those whose first dialysis treatment are a home modality. This measure is assigned to dialysis facilities that offer a home modalities program.

#### CMS Home Modalities Goals 2021 - 2025

- 60% increase in the number of new patients starting a home modality
- 30% increase in patients that transition to a home modality

Measure	Baseline Pts added in 2020	(Facility Goal) June 2021 - April 2022	June 2021 to Date	Pts Still Needed to reach Goal	Facility Rate (NW and National Rates shown at top of Report)
Transition	5	6	3	3	4.48%
Incident	4	4	1	3	1.49%

# Improve Care in High Cost/Complex Chronic Conditions: Transplantation

**Caroline Sanner, MSN, RN-BC  
QI Project Manager**



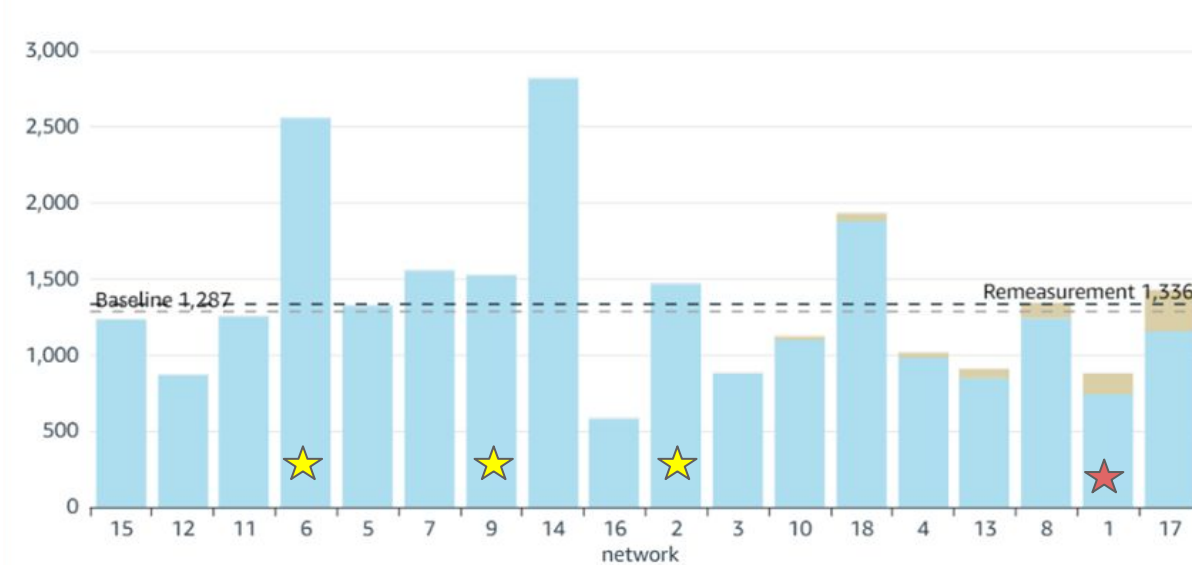
# June 2021-April 2022 Network Program Performance: Wait Lists



Added to Waitlist Progress to Target (Counts)

SOW Goal: 2% Increase (Relative)

Hover over to see the percentage to goal.



Legend

count to target percent\_of\_target

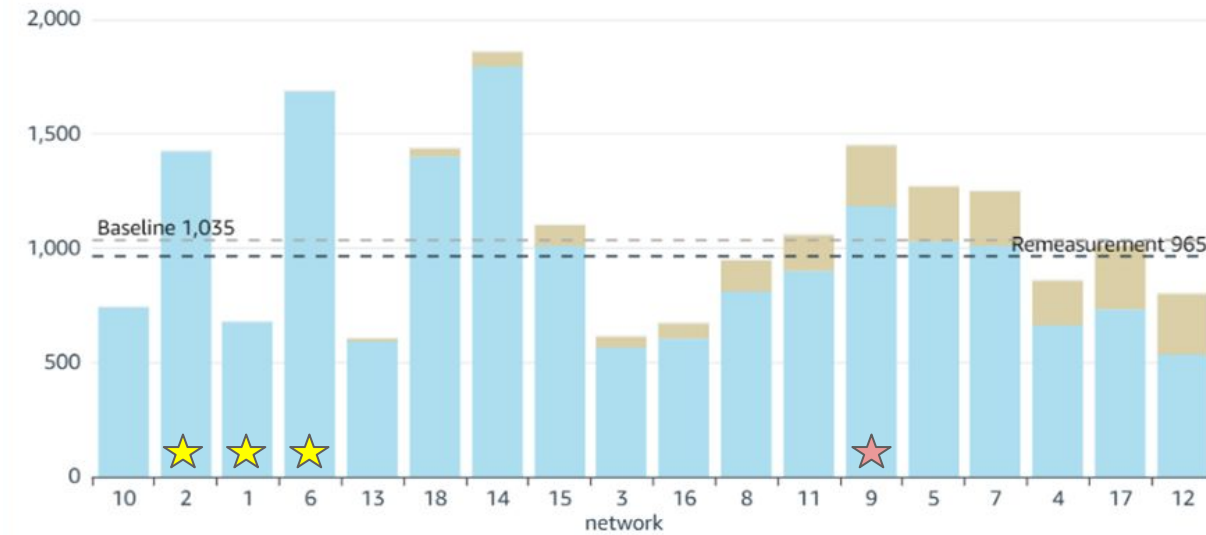
# June 2021-April 2022 Network Program Performance: Transplants



Transplanted Progress to Target (Counts)

SOW Goal: 2% Increase (Relative)

Hover over to see the percentage to goal.




Legend

count to target percent\_of\_target

# IPRO Learn

## Interventions and Resources


esrd.ipro.org

### TRANSPLANT WORK-UP APPOINTMENTS CHECKLIST

This checklist includes a comprehensive list of tests and procedures that your transplant center may ask you to have to assess your overall health as part of your kidney transplant work-up process. You can use this checklist as a way to guide you through your work-up appointments. Please discuss with staff members at your transplant center if there are any different or additional tests or procedures that you need to complete for your evaluation; the team at your transplant center will help you arrange some of these appointments.


**My transplant center:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Transplant center coordinator / contact information:** \_\_\_\_\_


**My dialysis facility:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Dialysis facility transplant coordinator / contact information:** \_\_\_\_\_

Is this Required? (✓)	Transplant Work-Up Procedure/Test	Date of appointment	Appointment Completed? Check (✓)	Did You Receive a Copy of Your Records or Clearance Letter? Check (✓)
	<b>Blood Work</b>			
	Comprehensive Metabolic Panel (CMP)			
	<b>Cardiac</b>			
	Echocardiogram			
	Electrocardiogram (EKG)			
	Stress Test			
	Letter confirming cardiac clearance for surgery			
	<b>Dental</b>			
	Routine dental exam			
	Dental clearance for surgery			


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### Living Donor Transplant: Your Best Option.




#### How is a kidney from a living donor better than one from a deceased donor?

Kidney from a Deceased Donor	Kidney from a Living Donor
• Kidney may last 10-15 Years	• Kidney lasts longer: 15-20 Years
• Kidney needs to be a match	• Donor does not need to be a match if using a paired exchange program
• It can take years to get a transplant	• Transplant can happen in a year or less
• Being called for a transplant cannot be scheduled or planned	• Your transplant can be scheduled when it works best for all involved
• The longer you wait for a transplant the more health issues may occur	• The sooner you are transplanted the sooner your health will improve, which will lengthen your life span
• It is harder to get a future transplant	• After a living donation, it may be much easier to match you for another transplant in the future

#### Facts About Living Donation that May Surprise You

- **You do not need to ask anyone for their kidney.** Most times the request for a kidney donation can be done indirectly by using social media or other methods to network within your community for folks to learn about your need. There are also programs where someone can act on your behalf and put the word out about your need for a transplant.
- **It will not cost the donor money to give you a kidney.** Your health insurance will cover all the donor's healthcare costs and there are also programs that cover additional costs such as lost work time, childcare expenses, and travel for the donor.
- **Your donor will not have more health risks after donating a kidney.** A person can live with one kidney their entire life without any problem. Also, donors are screened before the procedure to make sure there are no issues that could affect their kidney in the future if they donate.
- **Donor recovery time is less than most common hernia surgeries.** Approximately two weeks to normalize—six until they can lift.
- **Your donor will not need to be a match to you.** There are programs which can help you find a match even if your donor is not a match. All you need is one donor candidate whose health will allow them to complete the workup.
- **You can go for a workup without having a living donor and then find a donor after you're listed!**
- **There is no stated age limit to donate.** It is more about the donor's health and ability to undergo the procedure.

continues on next page



esrd.ipro.org

### Wait Less

#### SHORTEN YOUR WAIT FOR A KIDNEY TRANSPLANT

#### WHY LIVING DONATION?

Not only is living donation the fastest way to get a life-saving transplant, but live organs that are transplanted last longer and begin to function more quickly than deceased donations, allowing you to get back to living life to the fullest!



**IT'S A BIG ASK...**

Many decide against exploring living donation as an option for transplant because it's uncomfortable to ask people to give you one of their organs. But, there are resources available and people willing to help that will make that ask a little easier.

people in your community to your transplant story. Many patients have been successful finding a living donor using these methods, and they can work for you, too!

**WHAT IF MY LIVING DONOR IS NOT A MATCH?**

No problem! Many transplant centers participate in a program called "paired donation." This program matches you and your donor with another kidney pair. Both recipients, one from each pair, receive a compatible living kidney donation. The paired donation program assures you receive a living donation, even when your willing donor is not a match to you. Make sure you check to see if this program is offered at your transplant center!

**NO DIRECT ASK REQUIRED!**

Transplant centers can help tell your kidney story through social media campaigns. These campaigns are easy to set up and reach a large group of people: The more people who know about your need for a transplant, the better your chances of finding a willing donor! Your transplant centers may also train someone to serve as your "Transplant Champion," Acting on your behalf, this person will help connect

Waiting for a kidney from a deceased donor can take 3-5 years or more. There are many benefits to living donation, including shorter wait times.


esrd.ipro.org

### HELP YOUR PATIENTS

#### REDUCE THE WAIT FOR A KIDNEY TRANSPLANT

#### LIVING DONATION

Patients living with end stage renal disease face life-changing treatment regimens and uncertain wait times for a kidney transplant. There is much patients can do, with the help and support of their care providers, to reduce the time they wait for a transplant. A companion handout will help you educate your patients about some of their options is available. This flyer includes nationally supported references for the strategies described in the handout. Increasing your understanding of these strategies by reviewing this resource will help you to be the best advocate possible for anyone waiting for a transplant.



**MAKING THE ASK EASIER**

Living Donation is the fastest way to receive a kidney transplant. Many patients will not consider this option for a variety of reasons, but chief among them is their concern about asking someone for a donor kidney. Many transplant centers can assist by creating a social media campaign, which is easy to set up, reaches a large number of people, and has been proven to help patients successfully find a donor faster. The patient or significant other has to supply the information to share with family, friends and the community, but they will not have to do the direct "ask" for a kidney. Learn how a social media campaign increased living donor registration. [John Hopkins Medicine: https://bit.ly/2N9d6u6](https://bit.ly/2N9d6u6)

**TRANSPLANT CHAMPIONS**

Some transplant centers will offer to train someone who has been designated by the patient to act on their behalf as their "Champion." This person shares the patient's story and helps connect folks in the community with the opportunity to become a living donor. Through training, the Champion will know what to discuss and how to answer many of the questions that someone who is considering donating their kidney might ask. Talking with someone

other than the person who needs the organ helps to ease the discomfort of saying no.

**POTENTIAL DONOR NOT A MATCH? TRY PAIRED DONATION**

If a willing living donor is not a match for the patient, or if the patient is worried that the person they are considering will not be a match, the patient and their donor could be considered for paired donation.

Many transplant centers participate in a paired donation program, in which the patient and their donor are matched with another patient-donor pair. The result is that both recipients (one from each pair) receives a compatible living donation. This ensures that the patient receives the best matching kidney for the patient from a living donor, while an identified potential donor is not a match to them. Make sure you direct someone who has these concerns to a center that offers assistance through this program. See the attached reference from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) on paired donation, as well the Living Kidney Donors network. [NIH Link: https://bit.ly/2U3BwUd](https://bit.ly/2U3BwUd)  
[Living Kidney Donors: https://bit.ly/2U3BwUd](https://bit.ly/2U3BwUd)



# Benchmarking Performance

## Facility Performance Report Cards

Scan Here to Update Contacts



### Home and Transplant Modalities Report

Report includes EQRS Data as of:

CCN: \_\_\_\_\_

Measure	NW Rate	National Rate
Tpx: Transplanted	1.8%	2.0%
Tpx: Waitlisted	3.8%	3.4%

#### Home Modalities Quality Improvement Activity

For the Increasing Home Modality Quality Improvement Activity, the Network assigned a Goal for each facility based on prior years' performance. If there is no data displayed below, then facility had 0 Transitions and/or incidents since June 2021. Home Modality Measures are defined as:

- Transition to a Home Modality includes patients who transition from any modality to a home modality (Home hemodialysis, CAPD, CCPD).
- Incident patients are those whose first dialysis treatment are a home modality. This measure is assigned to dialysis facilities that offer a home modalities program.

**CMS Home Modalities Goals 2021 - 2025**

- 60% increase in the number of new patients starting a home modality
- 30% increase in patients that transition to a home modality

Measure	Baseline	[Facility Goal]	June 2021 to Date	Pts Still Needed to reach Goal	Facility Rate (NW and National shown at top of Report)
Transition	8	9	10	-1	15.11%
Incident	0	1	1	0	1.52%

#### Transplantation Waitlisting Quality Improvement Activity

For the Increasing Transplantation and Waitlisting Quality Improvement Activity, the Network assigned a Goal for each facility based on prior years' performance. This numbers below from the UNOS national registry. If you note a discrepancy, please contact your transplant center to verify your listings.

Transplant Q/A Measures include the following:

- Waitlist: Patients added to a transplant waitlist at one (or multiple) transplant centers in the U.S.
- Transplant: Patient who receives a kidney transplant. Transplants should be documented in EQRS.

**CMS Transplant Waitlist Goals 2021 - 2025**

- Increase the number of patients that are waitlisted for transplant by 20%
- Increase the number of patients that receive a kidney transplant by 30%

Measure	(Baseline) Pts Added in 2020	(Facility Goal) June 2021 - April 2022	June 2021 to Date	Pts Still Needed to reach Goal	Facility Rate (NW and National Rates shown at top of Report)
Waitlist	5	5	4	1	6.06%
Transplant	1	1	2	-1	3.03%

End of Report  
IPRO EQRS Network Program  
For assistance with this report please submit a ticket: <http://help.eqrs.ipro.org/support/home>  
To update your facility's contact information please do so here: <https://ic.fh01.carpis.com/eqs/4657000064d4ae3c0504811f>

Measure	NW Rate	National Rate
Tpx: Transplanted	1.8%	2.0%
Tpx: Waitlisted	3.8%	3.4%

### Transplantation Waitlisting Quality Improvement Activity

For the Increasing Transplantation and Waitlisting Quality Improvement Activity, the Network assigned a Goal for each facility based on prior years' performance. This numbers below from the UNOS national registry. If you note a discrepancy, please contact your transplant center to verify your listings.

- Transplant Q/A Measures include the following:
- Waitlist: Patients added to a transplant waitlist at one (or multiple) transplant centers in the U.S.
  - Transplant: Patient who receives a kidney transplant. Transplants should be documented in EQRS.

**CMS Transplant Waitlist Goals 2021 - 2025**

- Increase the number of patients that are waitlisted for transplant by 20%
- Increase the number of patients that receive a kidney transplant by 30%

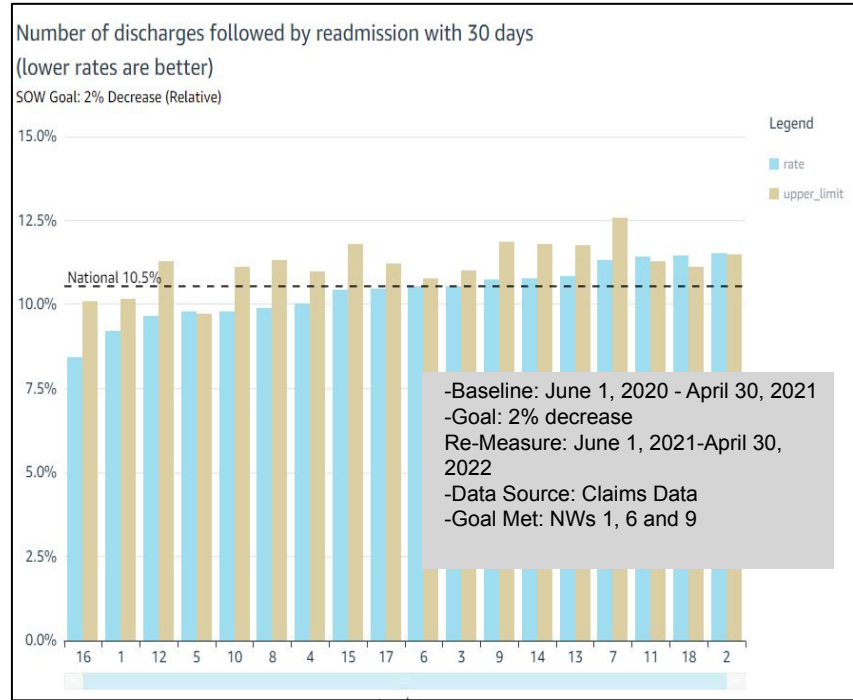
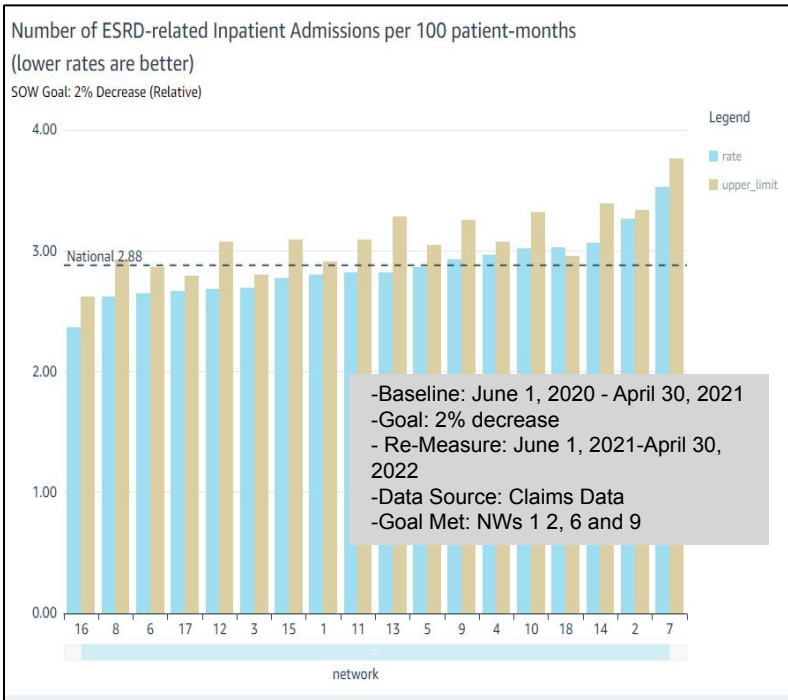
Measure	(Baseline) Pts Added in 2020	(Facility Goal) June 2021 - April 2022	June 2021 to Date	Pts Still Needed to reach Goal	Facility Rate (NW and National Rates shown at top of Report)
Waitlist	5	5	4	1	6.06%
Transplant	1	1	2	-1	3.03%

# Reduce Hospital Admissions, Readmissions, and Outpatient Emergency Visits

**Deb DeWalt, MSN, RN**  
**Quality Improvement Director**



# GOAL 4: Reduce Hospital Admissions and Readmissions



# GOAL 4: Reduce Outpatient Emergency Visits



- Baseline: June 1, 2020 - April 30, 2021
- Goal: 2% decrease in ED visits
- Re-Measure: June 1, 2021-April 30, 2022
- Data Source: Claims Data
- Goal Met: NWS 2, 6 and 9

# Performance Score Cards

## New for 2022-2023!



### Reducing Hospitalizations, 30 Day Unplanned Readmissions, and Emergency Room/Department Visits Report

Report includes current Medicare claims Data for ESRD Patients in EQRS as of: 3/31/2022

- Only patients who have Fee-For-Service (FFS) Medicare coverage are counted in this Report.
- Reducing hospitalizations and unplanned readmissions align with the Quality Incentive Payment Program (QIPP) goals for Standardized Hospitalization Rates (SHR) and Standardized Readmission Rates (SRR).

#### Reducing Emergency Room/Department Visits

(Baseline) Emergency Dept (ED/ER) Visits Jan - Dec 2020	(Goal) Not To Exceed ED Visits June 2021-April 2022	Current Total ED Visits to Date
14	13	13

#### Reducing Inpatient Hospitalizations

(Baseline) Inpatient Hosp Admits Jan - Dec	(Goal) Not To Exceed Inpatient Admits June 2021-April 2022	Current Inpatient Hosp Admits to
40	38	20

#### Reducing Unplanned 30-Day Readmissions

(Baseline) UnPlanned Hosp Readmits Jan - Dec 2020	(Goal) Not To Exceed Readmits June 2021-April 2022	Current UnPlanned Readmits to Date	
4	3	4	Exceeded Limit

See Next Page for list of FFS UPIs counted as "Current" in this Report...

### Reducing Hospitalizations, 30 Day Unplanned Readmissions, and Emergency Room/Department Visits Report

Report includes current Medicare claims Data for ESRD Patients in EQRS as of: 3/31/2022

CCN: 072507 DeVita New Haven Dialysis

InPatient Admits	2105371564	6/17/2021	6/23/2021		
ED visits	100008183	6/22/2021	6/23/2021		
InPatient Admits		6/25/2021	7/3/2021		
InPatient Admits		6/28/2021	11/17/2021		
InPatient Admits		8/10/2021	8/16/2021		
ED visits		8/11/2021	8/13/2021		
InPatient Admits		8/24/2021	8/27/2021		
ED visits		9/2/2021	9/4/2021		
InPatient Admits		9/4/2021	9/6/2021		
InPatient Admits		9/8/2021	9/9/2021		
Unplanned Readmissions		9/8/2021	9/9/2021		
ED visits		10/24/2021	10/25/2021		
InPatient Admits		10/26/2021	11/3/2021		
Unplanned Readmissions		10/26/2021	11/3/2021		
ED visits		10/29/2021	10/30/2021		
InPatient Admits		11/7/2021	11/12/2021		
InPatient Admits		11/15/2021	11/24/2021		
InPatient Admits		12/1/2021	12/5/2021		
InPatient Admits		12/4/2021	12/16/2021		
ED visits		12/20/2021	12/22/2021		
Unplanned Readmissions		1/6/2022	1/30/2022		
Unplanned Readmissions		1/20/2022	1/21/2022		
ED visits		1/27/2022	1/31/2022		
ED visits		1/27/2022	1/28/2022		
ED visits		2/2/2022	2/2/2022		
ED visits		3/1/2022	3/2/2022		

End of Report

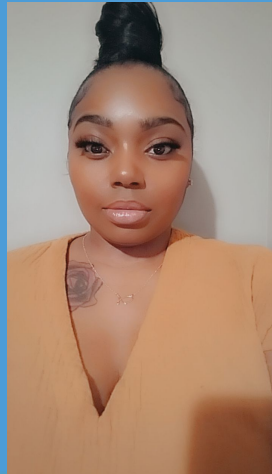
IPRO ESRD Network Program

Report please submit a ticket: <http://help.esrd.ipro.org/support/home>

in please do so here: <https://c1d801.caspio.com/ds/46bb7000068-0bae2c0504631875g>

# Improve Care in High Cost/Complex Chronic Conditions: Vaccinations

**Aisha Edmondson**  
QI Project Lead



*Vaccines are one of our best defenses against serious diseases. Many diseases are becoming rare or eradicated in the United States because we have been vaccinated against them. This is a great public health accomplishment because the pain, suffering and death from these diseases are changing day to day due to vaccines.*

- Vaccines work better when more people are vaccinated “herd immunity”
- Vaccines are one of the most convenient and safest preventive self care measures available.
- Vaccines are tested and undergo a robust approval process to ensure all licensed vaccines are safe and effective
- Potential side effects associated with vaccines are uncommon and much less severe than the diseases they prevent

### GOAL 3: Improve Care in High Cost/Complex Chronic Conditions

## Decrease Hospitalization of COVID-19 Positive ESRD Patients



- Baseline: June 1, 2020 through April 30, 2021
- Goal: 25% decrease
- Re-Measure: June 2021-April 30, 2022
- Data Source: Claims Data & NHSN
- Goal Met: NWS 2, 6 and 9



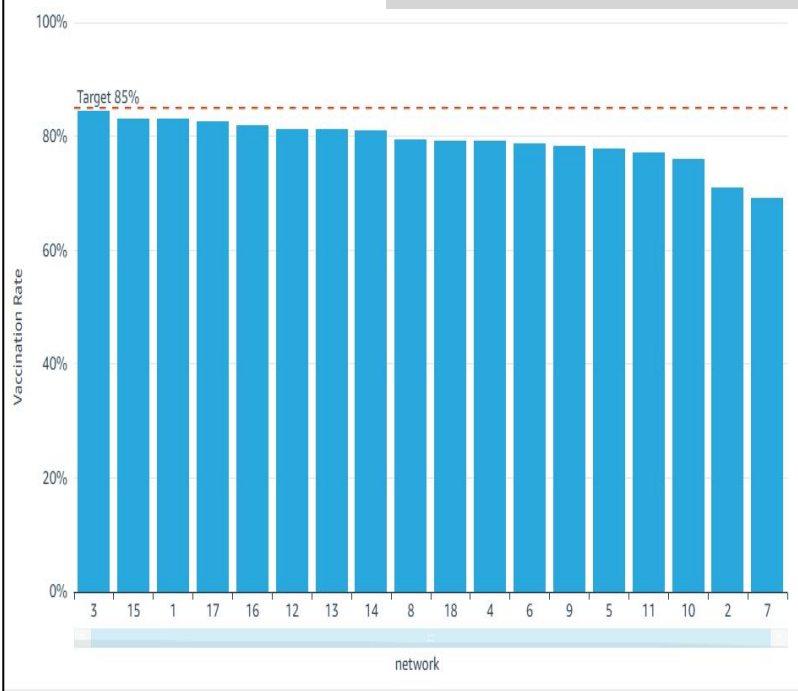


# GOAL 3: Improve Care in High Cost/Complex Chronic Conditions

Ensure 90 % of dialysis patients and 90% of Staff receive an influenza vaccination by the end of the base period.

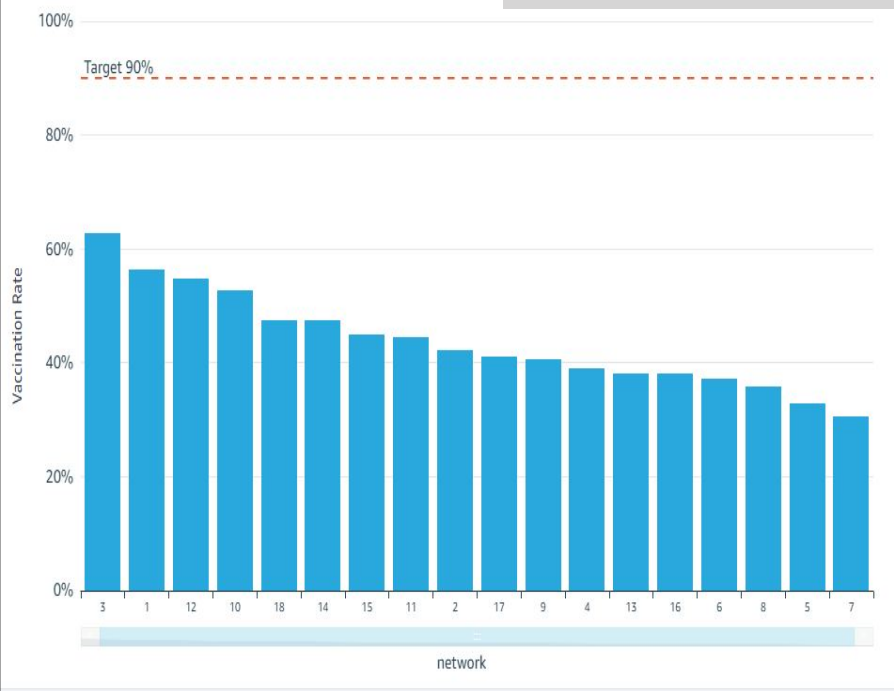
-Baseline: June 1, 2020 -April 30, 2021  
-Goal: 85%  
-Re-Measure: June 2021-April 30, 2022  
-Data Source: EQRS  
-Goal Met: No Networks met goal

Patient Influenza Vaccination Trend by Network



-Baseline: June 1, 2020 -April 30, 2021  
-Goal: 90%  
-Re-Measure: June 2021-April 30, 2022  
-Data Source: NSHN  
-Goal Met: No Networks met goal

Staff Influenza Vaccination Trend by Network



# Interventions/Resources



## Staying Safe in Multigenerational Households



### What is a multigenerational household?

A multigenerational household, or *grandfamily*, is one where more than two age groups live in the same home. This could be adults with children whose parents (the grandparents) also live with them. Or, it could be any other family members of different generations living together.

Multigenerational households have special needs when it comes to Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19). This is true when someone has kidney disease and is living on dialysis or with a transplant. **Remember—everyone needs to protect against COVID-19. Anyone of any age can get sick with the virus.**

Here are some common needs and ideas on how to make it work.

Check out

### Grandparents

People in this generation may be the most vulnerable to kidney failure.

It is important to understand and follow me directed. As with most people, it is best to get a look into telemedicine.

**Please write after each vaccine the date it was received.**

### • Influenza (Flu)

You should receive this vaccine once every year.

Please list date you receive this vaccine each year.

Influenza (Flu) Year 1:	Influenza (Flu) Year 5:
Influenza (Flu) Year 2:	Influenza (Flu) Year 6:
Influenza (Flu) Year 3:	Influenza (Flu) Year 7:
Influenza (Flu) Year 4:	Influenza (Flu) Year 8:

### Adult Multiple Dose - Multiple Administration Vaccines

#### • Pneumococcal pneumonia

You should receive up to three doses of this vaccine in your lifetime, with doses being five years apart.

Circle type: PCV 13 / PPV 23 Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Circle type: PCV 13 / PPV 23 Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Circle type: PCV 13 / PPV 23 Date: \_\_\_\_\_

#### • TD (tetanus/diphtheria)

You should receive this vaccine once every ten years.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

#### • COVID-19

2021

## Vaccination Toolkit

Developed by the Forum of ESRD Networks' Medical Advisory Council (MAC)

This toolkit for health providers and practitioners is a reference tool that provides information about vaccination requirements for kidney patients.

Tell us what you think!  
Please take a moment to complete a short questionnaire at this Toolkit. We appreciate your insight and suggestions make our resources better.  
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ForumResEval>

### How Vaccines Prevent Diseases

Vaccines reduce the risk of infection by working with the body's natural defenses to help it safely develop immunity to disease.

When germs, such as bacteria or viruses, invade the body, they attack and multiply. This invasion is called an infection, and the infection is what causes illness. The immune system then has to fight the infection. Once it fights off the infection, the body is left with a supply of cells that help recognize and fight that disease in the future.

Vaccines help develop immunity by imitating an infection, but this "imitation" infection does not cause illness. It does, however, cause the immune system to develop the same response as it would to a real infection, so the body can recognize and fight the vaccine-preventable disease in the future.

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)



Developed by the IPRO End-Stage Renal Disease Network Program

Forum Medical Advisory Council (MAC)  
The Forum of ESRD Networks  
First Publication: 08/01/2009  
Revised: 08/01/2011  
Revised: 01/08/2020  
Revised: 08/05/2021  
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**Protect yourself.  
Get the Vaccines You Need!**

**Vaccination is a safe, effective way to protect yourself from serious illness.**

Vaccines recommended for dialysis patients:

- Annual Flu Vaccine
- Pneumonia Vaccine
- Hepatitis B Vaccine

For more information or to file a grievance, please contact us:

**IPRO End-Stage Renal Disease Network Program**  
(Networks 1, 2, 6, and 9)

Corporate Office:  
1978 Merion Avenue  
Lake Success, NY 11042-5022

Toll Free: (800) 238-ESRD (8773)  
Website: [end-ipro.org](http://end-ipro.org)  
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IPRO End-Stage Renal Disease Network Program  
(800) 238-ESRD (8773)  
[end-ipro.org](http://end-ipro.org)

### Annual Influenza (Flu) Vaccine



• Influenza, also called the flu, is a contagious and serious respiratory illness.

• As a dialysis patient, if you get the flu you are more likely than others to develop serious problems.

• Each year there are different types of flu vaccines available some are better suited for kidney patients. Ask your healthcare team about which flu vaccine is best for you.

• Receiving an annual flu vaccine will help protect you from getting the flu.

• According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), influenza season usually starts in late October in February and can last until late May. The best time to receive a vaccine is October or November.

### Pneumonia Vaccine

• Pneumonia, an infection of the lungs, occasionally affects millions of people worldwide each year.

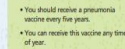
• Pneumonia is caused by bacteria and can lead to serious infections.

• Pneumonia infections can often be prevented and can usually be treated.

• The pneumonia vaccine protects your body from many types of harmful bacteria.

• You should receive a pneumonia vaccine every five years.

• You can receive this vaccine any time of year.



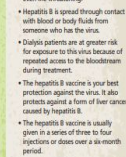
### Hepatitis B Vaccine

• Hepatitis B is spread through contact with blood or body fluids from someone who has the virus.

• Dialysis patients are at greater risk for exposure to this virus because of repeated access to the bloodstream during treatment.

• The Hepatitis B vaccine is your best protection against the virus. It also protects against a form of liver cancer caused by hepatitis B.

• The Hepatitis B vaccine is usually given in a series of three to four injections or doses over a six-month period.



For more information about these vaccines

# Data Performance Scorecards/Interventions



## Influenza Vaccination Report

NW 9

CCN: 152517 FMC - CANAL DIALYSIS

152517 Sajjad Habib	shabib@nephdocs.com	Facility Medical Director
152517 Angie Summers	angelene.summer@fmc-na.com	Facility Head Nurse/Nurse Supervisor
152517 Danielle Boughton	danielle.boughton@freseniusmedical.com	

### This facility's Patient Influenza (flu) Vaccination Rate for

Current Flu Vacc Count	Current Eligible Patients	Current Flu Vacc Rate
34	38	89.4

Review the list of UPIs below and make sure they have Influenza (flu) if the patient Declines or is deemed Medically-Ineligible, that still need EQRS.

Detailed Instructions (with screenshots) for reporting flu vaccinations located here:

[KnowledgeBase: Documenting Patient Influenza Vaccination](#)

Start of Remeasurement	End of Remeasurement	UPI No Flu Vaccination / Not Medical
8/1/2021	3/31/2022	310372
8/1/2021	3/31/2022	310362
8/1/2021	3/31/2022	310371
8/1/2021	3/31/2022	210552

IPRO ESRD Network Program  
Submit a ticket: <http://help.esrd.ipro.org>

End of Report

Page 1 / 1

- NHSN Home
- Alerts
- Reporting Plan
- HCW
- Lab Test
- Exposure
- Prophy/Treat
- Import/Export
- Vaccination Summary
- Surveys
- Analysis
- Users
- Facility
- Group
- Logout

NHSN Health

Action Items

COMPLETE THE

ALERTS

Annual Vaccination Flu Summary

Weekly Flu Vaccination Summary

COVID-19 Weekly Vaccination Summary

MISSING WEEKLY Summary Data

IPRO Better Healthcare. Realtime.

### Documenting Patient Vaccines in EQRS

Pneumococcal Pneumonia, Influenza, & Hepatitis B

EQRS Dashboard Facilities

CROWN Home Patients Clinical Facilities Form 2254 CROWN Reports

Login to EQRS [https://cportal.qualitynet.org/QNet/pgm\\_select.htm](https://cportal.qualitynet.org/QNet/pgm_select.htm)

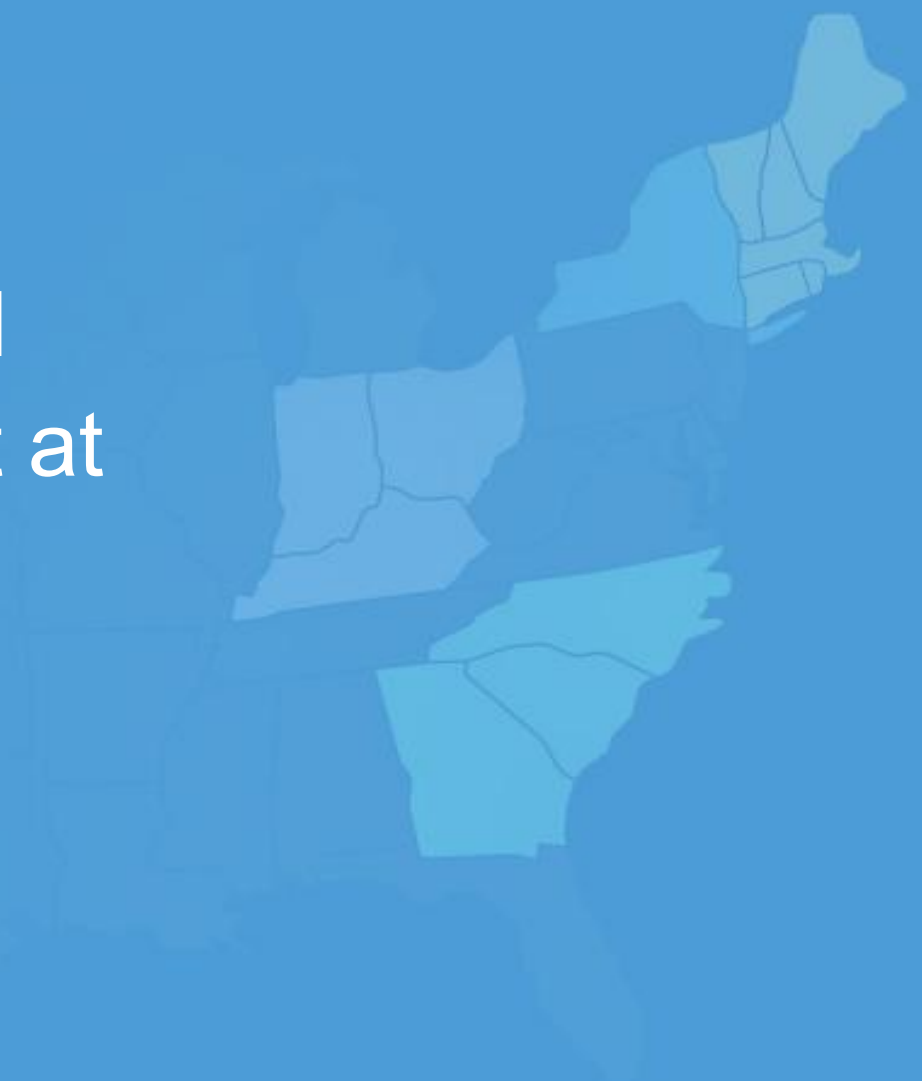
- Choose ESRD Quality Reporting System from the drop down
- Provide login information

Documenting vaccinations

- Select the Clinical Tab
- Manage Clinical Vaccination
- Enter the Facility CCN# or Medicare Identification Number
- Select
  - Collection type, Hemodialysis or Peritoneal Dialysis
  - Clinical Month
  - Display patient
  - Select patient

# Improve Patient and Family Engagement at the Facility Level

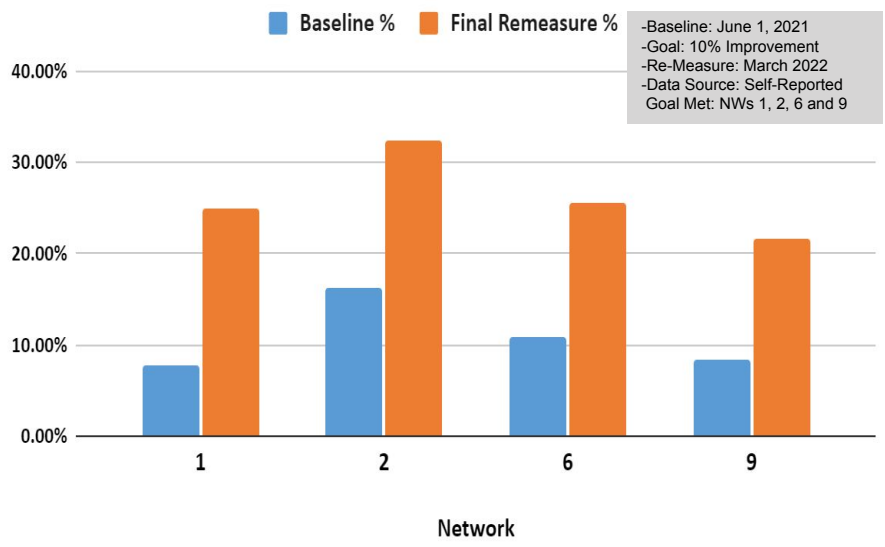
**Andrea Bates, MSW, LSW**  
**QI Project Manager**



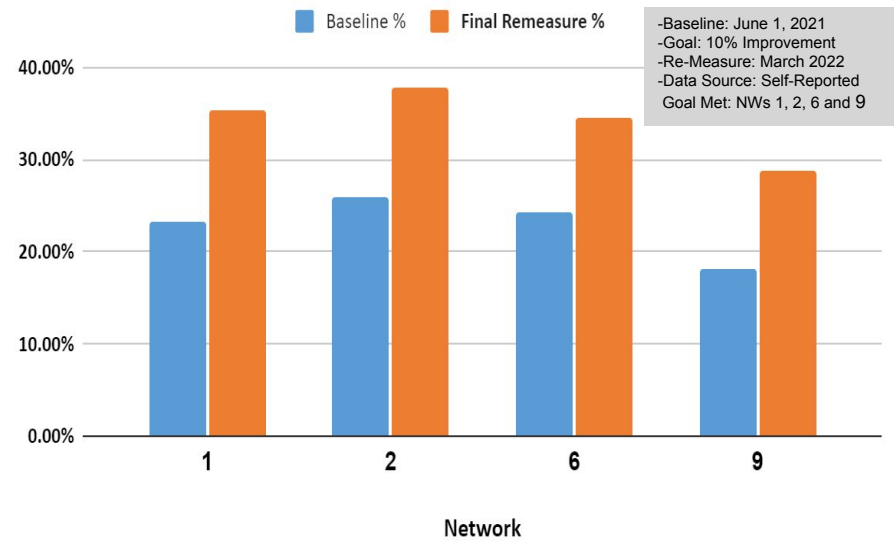
# Strategic Program Requirements: Improve Patient and Family Engagement

## Plan of Care and QAPI Goals

Assist patients to develop a life plan, from which the dialysis facility develops the dialysis plan of care



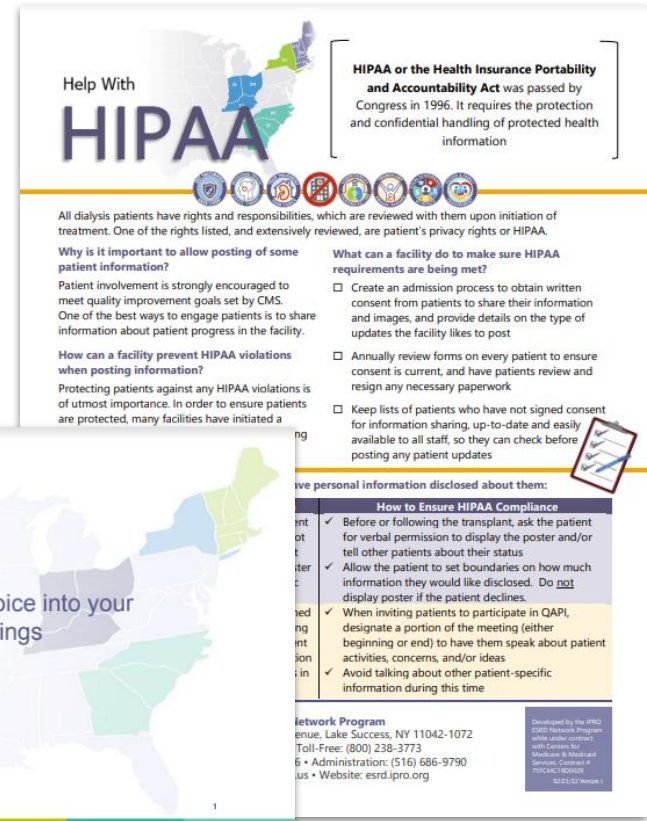
Successful Integration of Patients into Quality Assurance and Performance Improvement (QAPI)



# Interventions to Address Barriers

## Patients involved with QAPI

- Top barrier to patients not being included in QAPI were concerns with patient confidentiality
- The **Help with HIPAA** handout was created to assist facilities who reported
- A short video was created for facilities outlining the basics of patient inclusion
  - *Incorporating the Patient's Voice into Your Facility's QAPI Meetings*



**Help With HIPAA**

**HIPAA or the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act** was passed by Congress in 1996. It requires the protection and confidential handling of protected health information

All dialysis patients have rights and responsibilities, which are reviewed with them upon initiation of treatment. One of the rights listed, and extensively reviewed, are patient's privacy rights or HIPAA.

**Why is it important to allow posting of some patient information?**  
Patient involvement is strongly encouraged to meet quality improvement goals set by CMS. One of the best ways to engage patients is to share information about patient progress in the facility.

**How can a facility prevent HIPAA violations when posting information?**  
Protecting patients against any HIPAA violations is of utmost importance. In order to ensure patients are protected, many facilities have initiated a

**What can a facility do to make sure HIPAA requirements are being met?**

- Create an admission process to obtain written consent from patients to share their information and images, and provide details on the type of updates the facility likes to post
- Annually review forms on every patient to ensure consent is current, and have patients review and resign any necessary paperwork
- Keep lists of patients who have not signed consent for information sharing, up-to-date and easily available to all staff, so they can check before posting any patient updates

**How to Ensure HIPAA Compliance**

- ✓ Before or following the transplant, ask the patient for verbal permission to display the poster and/or tell other patients about their status
- ✓ Allow the patient to set boundaries on how much information they would like disclosed. Do not display poster if the patient declines.
- ✓ When inviting patients to participate in QAPI, designate a portion of the meeting (either beginning or end) to have them speak about patient activities, concerns, and/or ideas
- ✓ Avoid talking about other patient-specific information during this time

**End-Stage Renal Disease Network Program**

Developed by the IPRO ESRD Network Program with Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, Contract # 291CAC19E0004 10/27/22 (Issue 1)



**End-Stage Renal Disease Network Program**

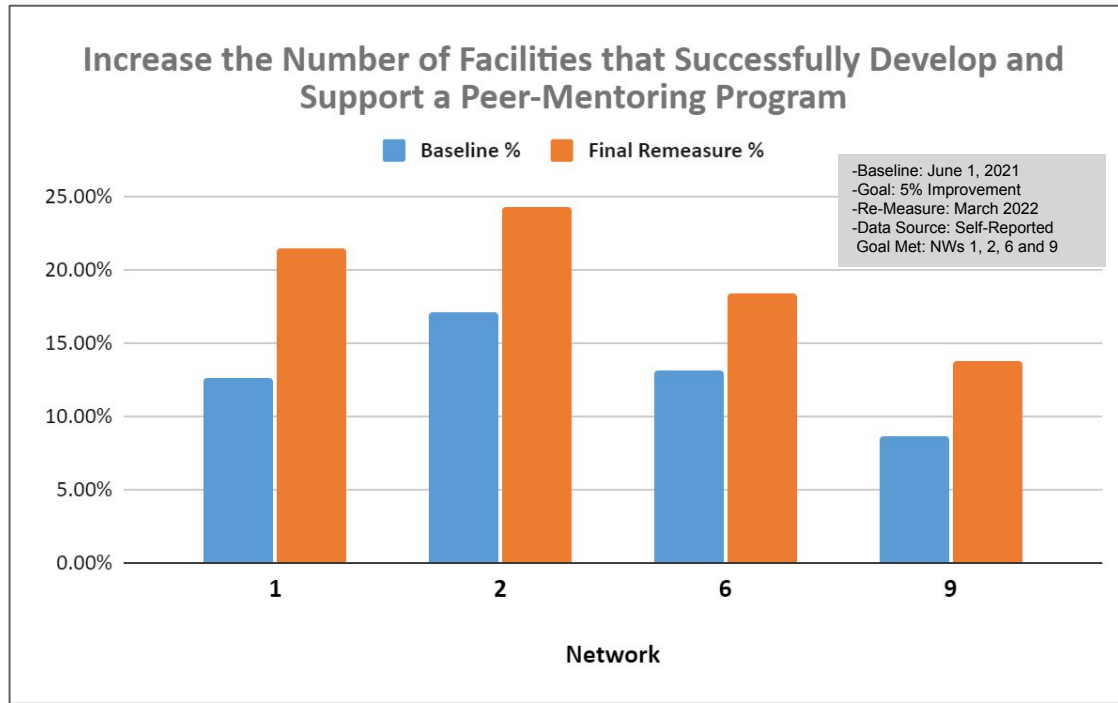
**Incorporating the Patient's Voice into your Facility's Monthly QAPI Meetings**

1

# Strategic Program Requirements: Improve Patient and Family Engagement



## Peer Mentoring Program



# Improve the Patient Experience of Care

**Danielle Daley, MBA**  
**Executive Director**  
**ESRD Network 6 (GA, NC, SC)**





# National Initiatives

## Improve the Patient Experience of Care by Resolving Grievances/Access to Care Issues

- Educate patients and dialysis facility staff about the role of the Network in resolving grievance and access to care issues
- Provide a focused audit of all grievance and access to care cases
- The Network's case review responsibilities include investigating and resolving grievances filed with the Network and addressing non-grievance access to care cases.





# Patient Services Team: 516-231-9767



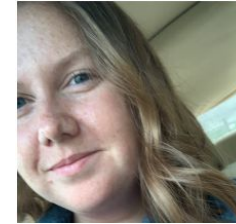
**Danielle Daley, MBA**  
Executive Director



**Brooke Andrews, MSW**  
Patient Services Coordinator  
Network 6



**Agata Roszkowski, LMSW**  
Patient Services Director  
Network 1



**Elizabeth Lehnes, MSW**  
Patient Services Coordinator  
Network 9



**Shezeena Andiappen, MSW**  
Patient Services Coordinator  
Network 2



**Julia Dettmann, BSW**  
Patient Services Coordinator  
Emergency Coordinator



# Network Role in Patient Experience of Care

The Network may assume one or more of the following roles in addressing a grievance filed by an ESRD patient, an individual representing an ESRD patient, or another party:

- **Facilitator:** Mediate concerns raised by patients and facilities.
- **Expert Investigator:** Investigate concerns raised by patients
- **Educator:** Provide patients and facilities with tools and resources to improve the patient experience of care.
- **Advocate** for the access to care of all ESRD patients
- **Referral Source:** Provide patients and facilities on all sources to report concerns.
- **Quality improvement Specialist:** Support the improvement of facility processes to improve the overall quality of care for all patients.



# Grievances

Upon the receipt of a grievance, the Network will classify the case as one of the following:

- **Immediate Advocacy:** Concerns that are non-clinical in nature and do not require a complex investigation; resolved in 7 days or less
- **General Grievance:** Concerns that are non-clinical in nature but require complex investigation and review of records; resolved in 60 days or less
- **Clinical Quality of Care:** Concerns that involve clinical or patient safety issues and requires a clinical review of records by an RN and/or the Medical Review Board (MRB); resolved in 60 days or less



# Grievance Case Management

January - May 2022

Case Categories	Network 1	Network 2	Network 6	Network 9	IPRO ESRD Network Program
Immediate Advocacy	9	7	13	8	<b>37</b>
General Grievance	2	12	16	11	<b>41</b>
Quality of Care	3	4	9	2	<b>18</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>96</b>



# Patient Education and Support

- As required by the conditions for coverage, all patients must be educated on the grievance process and the various options when filing a grievance
- Provide ongoing individualized education as well as displaying the Network "Speak Up!" poster in a common area that patients and visitors have access to (such as the unit lobby)

The treatment you receive should meet your need for safety, your rights as a patient, clinical standards of care, and be provided by staff who treat you fairly and respectfully.

If you feel your treatment does not meet these standards...

**Speak Up.**  
Here's how...

**First...**  
Ask a staff member for a copy of your facility's grievance policy to find out how you can file a grievance.

**However...**  
If you are still unsatisfied or do not have a grievance with your facility...

Contact



Filing a Grievance with your ESRD Network

Your Network can work with you and your facility to help resolve your concerns. Before filing a grievance with us we encourage you to discuss your concern directly with a staff member at your facility. Ask to speak with someone with whom you feel comfortable sharing your concerns. If you do not wish to identify yourself, ask about how an anonymous grievance can be filed.

If you do not feel comfortable filing a grievance with your facility or you feel dissatisfied with the response of facility staff to your concerns, you have the right to file a grievance with your Network and with your state agency. Your state agency's contact information should be posted in the lobby of your facility; it is also provided on the back of this brochure.

- How can I file a grievance?**
- You can file a grievance in one of three ways. You can
1. Call the Network using the toll-free line.
  2. Mail us a letter; or
  3. Fax us the information.

IPRO  
Better healthcare, realized.

## Kidney Chronicles

IPRO END-STAGE RENAL DISEASE NETWORK PROGRAM

### What is a Grievance?

A grievance is any concern or issue you may have about the care you receive from your dialysis facility. Patients, family members, loved ones, dialysis staff members, or anyone else who has concerns about a facility may submit a grievance.

**YOU have Options!**

As a dialysis patient, if you are not satisfied with the care you receive there are several ways that you can share your concerns:

1. Attend a patient care plan meeting
2. Speak to members of your care team
3. File a complaint with your facility
4. Contact the State Department of Health
5. Contact your IPRO ESRD Network (see page 2 for info)



The Network's contact information for all three options is available on the cover of this brochure.

To best help you, the Network may request information from you, such as your name, phone number, address and your date of birth. We will also ask for details (name and address) about the facility you have concerns about. If you do not feel comfortable giving us these details or sharing them with the facility, you have the right to file a grievance confidentially or anonymously.

If you file a confidential grievance, the Network will collect these details; however, we will NOT share them with the facility. If you file an anonymous grievance, we will not collect these details at all during your case. If you decide to file a case anonymously and your concern relates directly to your personal care, the Network may be limited in the actions we can take during your investigation. We will respect your choice and protect your anonymity to the best of our ability.

**What should I expect during the grievance process?**

A member of the Network's Patient Services Department will listen to your concerns and help you to best organize your thoughts; they will also provide feedback to you and maybe offer another point of view.

The Network will collaborate with you and the facility staff to reach a resolution by advocating on your behalf based on your rights as a patient.

We may request to review documentation from your facility. This documentation may include treatment logs, social worker notes or policies and procedures of your facility.

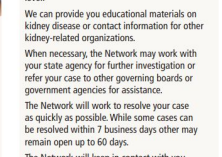
We can provide recommendations to staff and patients/ family members to build a more positive patient-provider relationship and encourage patients and staff to participate in care conferences to address issues at the facility level.

We can provide you educational materials on kidney disease or contact information for other kidney-related organizations.

When necessary, the Network may work with your state agency for further investigation or refer your case to other governing boards or government agencies for assistance.

The Network will work to resolve your case as quickly as possible. While some cases can be resolved within 7 business days other may remain open up to 60 days.

The Network will keep in contact with you throughout the process via phone and in writing.



The Network will keep in contact with you throughout the process via phone and in writing.

# Grievance and Access to Care Educational Resources



### Tips for Dialysis Staff to Identify and Manage Retaliation

**Retaliation is treating an individual differently (usually in a negative manner) as a result of that individual voicing a concern about you. Retaliation can be intentional or unintentional, blatant or subtle. Retaliation is an act of revenge.**

**What patients have said about retaliation:**

- "Retaliation is occurring, I've experienced it." It's often subtle, for example, patients can be ignored when making a simple request.
- "I have felt isolated after voicing a concern. My support system (at dialysis) is the staff, so it hurts when they stop talking to me."
- "I have received comments from a manager and nurse that feel like a threat, such as, 'If you're not happy here, you can always transfer to another facility.'"

**Things said or done in a moment of frustration, even a joke, can have lasting impact. It is important to stay professional and maintain appropriate boundaries with patients. These are some tips to consider when communication becomes difficult:**

- Be objective – don't take things personally
- Acknowledge anger or hurt feelings
- Notice your actions – they speak louder than words

**Things said or done in a moment of frustration, even a joke, can have lasting impact. It is important to stay professional and maintain appropriate boundaries with patients. These are some tips to consider when communication becomes difficult:**

**Fear of retaliation is common among dialysis patients. It's never okay for a patient to feel**

### Grievance Process Questions & Answers

#### A Guide for Dialysis Facilities

**All patients, family members, and care partners have the right to file a grievance, internally or externally, without fear of retaliation.**

**What is a grievance?**  
According to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, a grievance is defined as follows:  
"A written or oral communication from an ESRD patient, and/or an individual representing an ESRD patient, and/or another party, alleging that an ESD service received from a Medicare-certified provider did not meet the grievant's expectations with respect to safety, quality, patient rights, and/or clinical standards of care."

**Who should be responsible for receiving and documenting a grievance?**  
Everyday Any staff person who receives a grievance is responsible for documenting the grievance in the grievance log and reporting the concern to the Facility Administrator/Clinic Manager for follow up. Patients, family members and care partners should be able to report any problems and/or concerns to anyone at the unit without complication. As care providers it is our obligation to create an environment that fosters open communication and patient engagement  
"Strives to take every opportunity available to..."

**Who is responsible for carrying out an action of a grievance?**  
Administrator/Clinic Manager should take the lead in filing and resolving all grievances. If the grievance is Facility Administrator/Clinic Manager, the grievance should be investigated by that individual's direct This helps to create a process that is easy for the understand and eliminates questions about with should follow up if questions arise.

**End-Stage Renal Disease Network Program**

### Dialysis Facility Involuntary Discharge Guidelines

**STOP** Before considering an involuntary discharge (IVD), a facility's interdisciplinary team (IDT) should:  
1. Conduct a thorough assessment of the situation  
2. Develop a plan to address any problems or barriers the patient may be experiencing  
**Note:** Discharging a patient for "non-compliance" is not an acceptable reason for discharge per the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Conditions for Coverage (CIC).

**IVD Guidelines**  
Immediately notifying the Network provides an opportunity for the Network to review the issues and interventions with facility staff and see if there are other options that could be explored.

**Notify the Network of any potential IVD**  
It is the medical director's responsibility to ensure "that no patient is discharged or transferred from the facility unless:"  
• The patient or payer no longer reimburses the facility for the ordered services  
• The facility ceases to operate  
• The transfer is necessary for the patient's welfare because the facility can no longer meet the patient's documented medical needs  
• The facility has reassessed the patient and determined the patient's behavior is disruptive and abusive to the extent in which the delivery of care to the patient, or the ability of the facility to operate effectively is seriously impaired...."

**Have a policy and procedure in place for IVDs**  
The facility should establish IVD and transfer policies and procedures as outlined in 494.190 Condition Governance (Page 20484). A link to the full document is located on the ESRD website along with additional resources to assist you facility:  
<https://network1.esrd.org/home/patient-and-family-resources/access-to-care/>

**Train facility staff**  
All staff should receive training in conflict management techniques.  
• Training must be documented.  
The Facility should establish IVD and transfer policies and procedures as outlined in 494.190 Condition Governance (Page 20484). A link to the full document is located on the ESRD website along with additional resources to assist you facility:  
<https://network1.esrd.org/home/patient-and-family-resources/access-to-care/>

**Document everything**  
It is essential that staff document and address any and all problematic behaviors, no matter how insignificant they may seem. Include documentation of all:  
• Related assessments/plans of care, meetings, and interventions  
• Behavioral agreements that the staff and patients work on together (all behavioral agreements should be mutual between the patient and facility and should be reassessed at specified time intervals)  
An involuntary discharge can begin only if:  
• All efforts to resolve the problem have failed.  
• The issues and interventions to address them have been exhausted.

**IVD should be the option of last resort**  
The facility should assist the patient with either another facility if the IVD cannot be avert then attempting to assist the patient in transition. Medical information requested by the IDT include additional documentation indicating circumstances surrounding the discharge unless considered backlisting and will be reported per the IDT. Immediate severe threat to the health or safety of the patient or physical harm. For example, if a physical harm, this would be considered an "immediate severe threat" and is not considered to be an immediate threat. This must notify the State Survey Agency of all results of immediate, severe threats, the 5 immediately.



### V-TAGS & INTERPRETIVE GUIDANCE REGARDING PATIENT INVOLUNTARY DISCHARGE

#### CMS End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) Program Interim Final Version Interpretive Guidance Version 1.1

TAG NUMBER	REGULATION	INTERPRETIVE GUIDANCE
V468 (Patient Rights)	(b) <i>Standard: Right to be informed regarding the facility's discharge and transfer policies.</i> The patient has the right to – (1) Be informed of the facility's policies for transfer, routine or involuntary discharge, and discontinuation of services to patients; and	Patients must be given information about the facility policies for routine and involuntary discharges. Refer to the Condition for Governance at V766-V767 for involuntary discharge or transfer regulations and guidance, including acceptable reasons for involuntary discharge. Use those tags for failure to follow the involuntary discharge procedures. Use this tag for failure to inform patients about the transfer and discharge policies.
V469 (Patient Rights)	(2) Receive written notice 30 days in advance of an involuntary discharge, after the facility follows the involuntary discharge procedures described in § 494.180(f)(4). In the case of immediate threats to the health and safety of others, an abbreviated discharge procedure may be allowed.	The involuntary discharge procedures described at V767 identify the steps that a facility must follow prior to the involuntary discharge of a disruptive and abusive patient. After following the required procedures, a facility must give at least 30-days prior notice to any patient whom they opt to discharge involuntarily, except in the case of a patient who makes severe and immediate threats to the health and safety of others. An "immediate threat to the health and safety of others" is considered to be a threat of physical harm. For example, if a patient has a gun or a knife or is making credible threats of physical harm, this can be considered an "immediate threat." Verbal abuse is not considered to be an immediate threat. In instances of an immediate threat, facility staff may utilize "abbreviated" involuntary discharge or transfer procedures. These abbreviated procedures may include taking immediate protective actions, such as calling "911" and asking for police assistance. In this scenario, advance notice is not possible or required and there may not be time or opportunity for reassessment, intervention, or contact with another facility for possible transfer, as outlined at V767.
V716	(ii) The interdisciplinary team adheres to the discharge and transfer policies and procedures specified in § 494.180(f).	The medical director must monitor and review each involuntary patient discharge to ensure that the facility interdisciplinary team follows the discharge and transfer policies and completes the steps required under the

### Grievance Process Guide

Use this step-by-step guide to help you get your grievance handled in a direct and successful manner. After taking each suggested step, ask yourself whether or not the step helped. Then follow the arrows. Please note that it is not mandatory to follow the flow chart. Patients may contact any of the three agencies at any time.

**Step 1: Talk to Someone at Your Facility**  
Ask to speak to someone at your facility with whom you feel comfortable sharing your concern. This might be your social worker, kidney doctor or the facility manager. (Talk to the staff about how a grievance can be filed anonymously at your facility.)

**NO**  
I do not feel comfortable talking to someone at my facility or I spoke to someone and I don't feel like my grievance will be handled.

**YES**  
I spoke to someone and feel my grievance will be handled.

**SUCCESS**

**Step 2: Call Your Network**  
Your Network can work with you and your facility to help resolve your grievance. The Network can be reached via this toll free number: (866) 286-3773 (if you wish to remain anonymous, ask the Network how to file a grievance anonymously.)

**NO**  
I do not feel comfortable talking to someone at the Network or I am not sure the Network can address my grievance.

**YES**  
After speaking with the Network I feel my grievance will be handled.

**SUCCESS**

**Step 3: Call Your State Agency**  
Your state agency contact number should be posted in your dialysis facility lobby or you can ask the Network for the number to call. (The state can address your grievance anonymously. Please let them know if that is what you prefer.)

**File a grievance, please contact us:**  
**IPRO End-Stage Renal Disease Network of New England**  
1952 Whitney Avenue, 2nd Floor, Hamden, CT 06517  
Patients Toll-Free: (866) 286-3773 (Patients only) • Phone: (203) 387-9332  
Fax: (203) 389-9902 • E-mail: info@new1.esrd.net • Web: network1.esrd.org

Developed by IPRO (ESRD Network of New England) with support from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, Contract # HHS-101-01019C. IPRO-503-2016-00019C

**Dialysis Patient Grievance Toolkit**

**THE NATIONAL FORUM OF ESRD NETWORKS**

**KIDNEY PATIENT ADVISORY COUNCIL (KPAC)**



# Access to Care

Upon the receipt of a access to care concern, the Network will classify the case as one of the following:

- **At Risk Involuntary Discharge:** Concerns related to possible patient discharge.
- **Involuntary Discharge:** Immediate or 30 day IVD. Volume monitored by the Network

Before considering an involuntary discharge (IVD), a facility's interdisciplinary team (IDT) should:

- Conduct a thorough assessment of the situation
- Develop a plan to address any problems or barriers the patient may be experiencing

Note: Discharging a patient for “non-compliance” is not an acceptable reason for discharge per the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Conditions for Coverage (CfC).





# IVD Guidelines

- Notify the Network **PRIOR** to discharge any potential IVD and notice provided to patient
- Have a policy and procedure in place for IVDs
- Train facility staff
- Document everything
- IVD should be the option of **LAST** resort
- Assist the patient with placement
- Notifying the State Survey Agency



# Access to Care Case Management

January - May 2022

Case Categories	Network 1	Network 2	Network 6	Network 9	IPRO ESRD Network Program
Facility Concern	51	92	75	80	<b>298</b>
Access to Care	24	44	59	50	<b>177</b>
Averted Discharge	8	9	7	18	<b>42</b>
Involuntary Discharge	3	6	35	28	<b>72</b>
Failure to Place	3	6	1	4	<b>14</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>475</b>

# Emergency Management

**Danielle Daley, MBA**  
**Executive Director**  
**ESRD Network 6 (GA, NC, SC)**





# Emergency Preparedness, Mitigation, and Response

## Network Responsibilities

- Networks are the foundation of ESRD Emergency Management in collaboration with the Kidney Community Emergency Response (KCER) national response coordination contractor
- Networks monitor conditions that impact a facility's ability to provide service to dialysis patients
- Networks establish relationships with state emergency management officials and healthcare coalitions
- During an emergency, Networks:
  - Work to identify challenges and barriers impacting patients and facilities
  - Collaborate with emergency response stakeholders at the local level to re-establish interrupted services



# Emergency Preparedness, Mitigation, and Response

- REPORT Closed/Altered Status
- Use the Closed/Altered Reporting Link:  
<https://redcap.ipro.org/surveys/?s=R8K7RWETHM>

## Why?

- Network reports to CMS, State and local OEMS during events
- Assists in placing patients as needed
- Provides Situational Awareness.in an emergency

**IPRO ESRD Network Program: Emergency Operational Status Report**

Please complete the form below for your facility's operational status (Open/Closed/Altered).

- The Emergency Operational Status Report must be received by 11AM Daily until the dialysis facility's normal operational status is resumed following an active weather related emergency.
- For all other reportable events, submit an initial report of the event and submit a follow-up report once the event has concluded.
- Survey completion is dependent on all fields as marked by \* must provide value.

**FACILITY INFORMATION**

Select your Network from the dropdown menu below:  
\* must provide value

If your CCN and Facility Name is NOT listed above, please list CCN, Facility Name and Address below.

**PATIENT INFORMATION**

Have you provided any of the following information to patients in preparation for this event?  
\* must provide value

- 3 Day Emergency Diet
- Hurricane Preparedness Tip Sheet
- Facility Emergency Contact Information
- Organization Specific Emergency Preparedness Resource
- Other

Choose all that apply:

Have all patients been contacted and/or accounted for?  
\* must provide value

- Yes
- No

(Requests or Needs) - Is there anything that the Network can do to support your facility or patients at this time?  
Expand

e.g. Transportation, staffing, generator fuel, potable water

**Additional Comments:**  
Expand

**What type of event are you reporting c**  
\* must provide value

- Power Outage
- Water Issues (RO, municipal water, etc.)
- Renovations/ Remodeling
- Positive Cultures
- Wind Storm/Damage
- Flash Flooding
- Earthquake
- Winter Weather: Snow/ Ice/ Sleet/ Freezing Rain
- Hurricane/Tropical Storm
- Structural Damage
- Fire Alarm System Failure
- Hazardous Materials Incident
- Bomb Threat
- Evacuation/Relocation of Patients
- Other (Specify Below)

Choose all that apply:

**Brief description of event and mitigation plans.**  
\* must provide value



# Critical Asset Survey (CAS) for 2022

- Annual Critical Assets Survey (CAS)
  - <https://redcap.ipro.org/surveys/?s=FFNK EEHC9EYJAC8F>
  - 88% completion rate (1,752/2,002) for 2022
  - Represents preparedness activities and resources of dialysis Facilities
- Data Used By:
  - State OEMS
  - Healthcare Coalitions
  - Network Emergency Management
- Facility Summary Reports
  - Facility Summary Reports distributed mid-August, add this to your facility's Emergency Plan

End-Stage Renal Disease Network Program | IPRO | http://esrd.ipro.org

### Emergency Messaging Channel

Dedicated to maintaining high standards of care for ESRD patients before, during and after emergencies

#### Emergency Preparedness Critical Assets Survey Summary Report

Facility CCN: 112814  
Facility Name: COLQUITT REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER DIALYSIS

Contact Information	
Primary EM POC Name:	Regional Contact Name: Rita Gay
Primary EM POC Email:	Regional Contact Email: rgay@colquittregional.com
Primary EM POC Phone:	Regional Contact Phone: 229-454-1411
Back-Up Contact Name: Lynsey Bell	Emergency Regional Contact Phone: 229-454-1411
Back-Up Contact Email: lybell@colquittregional.com	
Back-Up Contact Phone: 229-891-6150	
Additional Emergency Contact Name: Dean Cosmos	
Additional Emergency Contact Email: dcosmos@colquittregional.com	
Additional Emergency Contact Phone: 203-770-3417	

Facility Information	
Facility Generator Status:	Functioning generator on-site
What type of fuel does your facility generator use?:	Diesel
Does your facility have water treatment back-up capabilities? (i.e. DI tanks, water delivery, etc.):	No
Which backup communication system does your facility utilize when land line phones are not working?:	2 Way Radio
Other (please specify):	Unchecked
Do you have the capability to change the voicemail message of your phone system during an emergency to provide information on your open/closed status and what number a patient should call for information?:	Yes



# Critical Asset Survey (CAS) for 2022

Due **5/31/2022**. Collection calls will begin next week.

- If you receive an email = no CAS submitted
- It is not considered **Submitted** if:
  - It was incomplete/abandoned
  - Wrong CCN was entered

**Re-Enter your facility CCN as it appears in the drop down above (6 digits, no spaces, no dashes)**

- Only 1 submission per facility.
- If you enter the correct CCN and get a "Duplicate Value!" message, it means that this Survey has already been submitted and no further action required!

\* must provide value

Submit 1 per facility Only. If you see "Duplicate Value!" message, that means it has already been submitted and no further action needed.

# Thank You

For more information about the IPRO ESRD Network Program,  
go to <https://esrd.ipro.org/>

Department Phone and Fax Lines:  
Patient Services: 516-231-9767  
Data Management: 516-268-6426  
Administration: 516-686-9790

Toll-Free Patient Line: 800-238-3773 (ESRD)



Better healthcare,  
realized.

Corporate Headquarters  
1979 Marcus Avenue  
Lake Success, NY 11042-1072

<http://ipro.org>