April is National Donate Life Month

National Donate Life Month (NDLM) was instituted by Donate Life America and its partnering organizations in 2003. Celebrated in April each year, NDLM features an entire month of local, regional and national activities to help encourage Americans to register as organ, eye and tissue donors and to celebrate those that have saved lives through the gift of donation.

For the 2016 National Donate Life Month artwork, Donate Life America was inspired by the mighty sunflower. It’s difficult to overlook their stature and bright color. A sunflower’s orangey yellow hue evokes feelings of optimism, warmth and cheerfulness. Often found in fields, they stand confident, sheltering each other and following the light throughout their lives.

To see how the IPRO ESRD Network Program team celebrated National Donate Life Month please visit our Facebook page.

ESRD News and Alerts

FDA Safety Communication:

- **March 30, 2016**- The FDA is recommending consumers, businesses, schools, and healthcare providers stop using **OxySure Portable Emergency Oxygen System, Model 615** because of several device malfunctions, including ineffective oxygen delivery, and chemical reactions in the canisters that could cause them to explode. [Click here](#) to read the full FDA Safety Communication.

FDA MedWatch:

- **April 5, 2016**- An FDA safety review has found that **type 2 diabetes medicines containing saxagliptin and alogliptin may increase the risk of heart failure**, particularly in patients who already have heart or kidney disease. As a result, FDA is adding new warnings to the drug
April 8, 2016 - FDA is requiring labeling changes regarding the recommendations for metformin-containing medicines for diabetes to expand metformin’s use in certain patients with reduced kidney function. The current labeling strongly recommends against use of metformin in some patients whose kidneys do not work normally. FDA was asked to review numerous medical studies regarding the safety of metformin use in patients with mild to moderate impairment in kidney function, and to change the measure of kidney function in the metformin drug labeling that is used to determine whether a patient can receive metformin. Visit our website to read the full announcement.

April 12, 2016 - Dexcom Inc. is recalling the Continuous Glucose Monitoring Systems because the audible alarm may not activate in the receiver piece when low or high glucose levels (hypoglycemia or hyperglycemia) are detected. Relying on this product for notification of low or high blood sugar could result in serious adverse consequences, including death as the auditory alarm may not sound and users might not be notified of low or high blood sugar. Click here for the full FDA MedWatch announcement.

**Submitting the CMS-2744**

The **Past Due Deadlines** for the CMS-2744 Annual Facility Survey:

- **February 15, 2016** - Deadline for generating the 2744.
- **April 1, 2016** - Deadline for submission of completed 2744 forms to the IPRO ESRD Network of the South Atlantic for approval.

Please double check for accuracy when submitting your 2744 to reduce errors.

Here is a link to the 2744 training:

http://mycrownweb.org/pcw_course/completing-the-cms-2744-form/

**Quality Improvement**

**2016 Network Quality Improvement Activities**

All 2016 Network quality improvement activities (QIAs) have been launched. If you have any questions about your inclusion in these activities or requirements related to these, please refer to the Network website.

Please note that contracts for each project were distributed. For additional information, or to see if your facility is involved in these activities, please refer to the Network website using the links above. If you are included in these activities and have not received this form, please contact the Network Quality Improvement department at quality@nw9.esrd.net.

**A Letter from Baxter Healthcare Corporation**

Baxter is temporarily increasing monthly allocation targets for the automated peritoneal dialysis (APD) therapy between May 2, 2016 and June 30, 2016.

Over the past few months, APD patient starts were lower than expected. This temporary allocation increase allows the community to accommodate additional patients on therapy, while maintaining continuity of care for existing patients.

Between May 2, 2016 and June 30, 2016 current customers can start 90% of the average monthly gross gains from January to June 2014 or 2 monthly allocation targets per agreement owner, whichever is greater. The additional targets are being equitably distributed across Baxter’s existing customer base. Once this period is over, allocation targets will return to their previous levels.
Strategies to Improve Access Management in Dialysis Patients

The kidney care community has long focused on the importance of vascular access because there is consensus on the direct link between a patient's vascular access type and overall clinical outcomes and costs of care. Clinical outcomes and quality of care reached a new level of prominence in 2015 with the late-January launch of the Five-Star Rating System by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.

Vascular access (percentage of arteriovenous fistulas, AVFs, and percentage of catheters in use after 90 days) is a key clinical metric in the Five-Star program and also impacts other metrics (e.g., mortality rates and hospitalizations).

Free Webinar: Effective Communication and Coordination of Care

The Quality Improvement Organization (QIO) Program will be holding the next installment of its free "Sharing Knowledge, Improving Health Care" learning series on Tuesday, May 3, 2016, 3:00 - 4:00 p.m. EDT.

The virtual training session is open to beneficiaries, families, providers, practitioners, partners and Quality Innovation Network-Quality Improvement Organizations (QIN-QIO), and will feature guest presenters Traci Archibald, CMS, Jane Brock, MD, Telligen and Angela Lucente Prokop, Southwestern Pennsylvania Area Agency on Aging.

For more information please see this webpage. Register for the training here.

Nephrology Nurses to Gather in Louisville

Nurses seeking to enhance their nephrology practice and make new professional connections will gather during Derby Week for the American Nephrology Nurses Association (ANNA) 47th National Symposium in Louisville, KY.

The meeting, which is a premier education event for the nephrology nursing specialty is slated for May 1-4, 2016, and will be held at the Marriot Louisville and Kentucky International Convention Center. Along with a wide variety of education sessions and networking opportunities, the attendees will enjoy the most energized week of the year in Louisville as well as Derby-inspired special events.

Visit the ANNA Symposium website for more information and to register for this event.

Patient Services

New Approaches to the Challenging Patient
Whether you are a medical director, facility administrator, social worker, or admissions specialist working in a dialysis facility, it's likely that at some point a packet of information on a new patient has come across your desk and caused you great concern...

Click here to read the full article titled "In search of a dialysis unit: An innovative approach in addressing patient placement challenges", written by Evan Smith, LMSW, MBA, Patient Services Director for the IPRO ESRD Network Program published in Nephrology News and Issues.

Network Patient Advisory Committee

The IPRO ESRD Network Program is excited to announce the release of a new informative video about the Patient Advisory Committee (PAC). This video discusses how patients can get involved in the PAC and what being a PAC member means. The IPRO ESRD Network of the Ohio River Valley's Patient Advisory Committee (PAC) is comprised of ESRD patients, transplant recipients, care partners, and family members.

Click here to view our new PAC Volunteer Video presented by IPRO.

For more information about the Patient Advisory Committee visit our website!

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Data Management

The Network is Hiring!

The IPRO ESRD Network of the Ohio River Valley is hiring a Data Coordinator. This position is responsible for providing support for data systems and infrastructure management for the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) Network 9 contract. The selected candidate will provide support to dialysis and kidney transplant facilities in the timely and accurate submission of data, and the maintenance of patient information, including automated and hard copy files.

Please visit the IPRO website for more information and to apply for the Data Coordinator position.

Network Data Service Line

We are pleased to announce the launch of the IPRO ESRD Network of the Ohio River Valley's Data Support Service. The Network has implemented a dedicated email address and phone line to answer data management related inquiries. This system is managed by Network personnel who will respond to your questions regarding CROWNWeb data entry issues and other data management systems supported by the Network.

This feature is live now! Please use one of the following methods to submit your questions:

- Data designated phone line: (216) 593-0066
- Data designated email address: data@nw9.esrd.net

Inquiries will be answer by a Network staff member within one (1) business day.

*Please do not email patient identifiable information*
CMS Uses CROWNWeb for Reporting Depression and Pain

An article published in Renal & Urology News discusses depression and pain assessment documentation in CROWNWeb and provides an overview of the decision tree users should use when reporting pain assessments and follow-up data to CROWNWeb.

Click here to read the full article in Renal & Urology News.

For more information about Quality Incentive Program (QIP) and CMS measures, visit www.cms.gov.

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Updating Facility Personnel in ESRD Data Systems

Why should your facility care about keeping up-to-date staff information in ESRD data systems?
There are many reasons why staff information, including e-mail addresses, should be maintained and current in all data systems. With the correct information you are more likely to be able to:

- Prevent security breaches,
- Comply with data submission reporting requirements,
- Avoid missing deadlines, and
- Make comments and submit questions on QIP reports

Which data systems should you check √ ?

√ CROWNWeb:
At least two facility users should have QIMS CROWNWeb access at all times, and their correct email address should be verified in QIMS. It is important that information (including name, job description, job coded, job title, email, and phone number) for key staff members at your facility is kept up to date in CROWNWeb.

CROWNWeb is the Network's source for facility personnel contact information. As an efficient and cost effective way to communicate with our community, the Network relies on email to send critical information.

The facility personnel screen in CROWNWeb is divided into three sections:

- Key personnel info- complete all information.
- Positions- create as many positions as required. If any personnel change their position, e.g.: Medical Director, remove the position. Do not delete the personnel or inactivate them. One can add and remove as many positions as needed.
- Personnel contact info- email is required.

√ National Healthcare Safety Network:
It is recommended that at least two individuals at your facility must be able to access NHSN via SAMS. These individuals should be assigned appropriate user rights in NHSN to enable entering and viewing of the facility's data.

√ Dialysis Facility Reports:
Master Account Holder contact information and the current users' accounts should be up-to-date in the DialysisData.org website.

√ Quality Incentive Program:
At least two staff members should have access in order to download performance Score Reports and Performance Score Certificates and be able to comment on these reports. One staff member should be designated as "Facility Point of Contact".

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Job Description</th>
<th>Job Code</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Facility Head Nurse/ Nurse Supervisor</td>
<td>FHNNS</td>
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<tr>
<td>Facility Social Worker</td>
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<tr>
<td>Facility Dietitian</td>
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<td>Facility Nephrologist</td>
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Upcoming Meeting & Events

April 27- May 1, 2016- The National Kidney Foundation (NKF) 2016 Spring Clinical Meetings at the Hynes Convention Center in Boston, MA.

May 1- May 4, 2016- ANNA National Symposium, Nephrology Nursing event at the Marriot Louisville & Kentucky International Convention Center in Louisville, KY.

Tuesday, May 10, 2016- Vascular Access Webinar, presented by the IPRO ESRD Network Program.

IPRO End-Stage Renal Disease Network of the Ohio River Valley, the ESRD Organization for Indiana, Kentucky, and Ohio, 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. The contents presented do not necessarily reflect CMS policy. CMS Contract Number: HHSM-500-2016-0009C.

IPRO ESRD Network of the Ohio River Valley
3201 Enterprise Parkway, Suite 210, Beachwood, OH 44122
(216) 593-0001
esrd.ipro.org
info@nw9.esrd.net