Important Updates

User Onboarding for the ESRD Quality Reporting System (EQRS)

CMS is implementing a new two-part identity management system for the ESRD Quality Reporting System (EQRS) over the next several weeks. CMS wishes to ensure that the on boarding of current and new users into EQRS goes smoothly in light of the upcoming ESRD QIP Preview Period.

All EQRS users need to register in the new Enterprise Identity Management (EIDM) system. If you have not established an EIDM account yet, please register for your EIDM ID as soon as possible by completing the following steps.

1. Use your web browser to navigate to https://portal.cms.gov/wps/portal/unauthportal/home/
2. Click on the "New User Registration" link in the "CMS Secure Portal" box on the right side of the web page.
3. Follow the prompts to complete the process to request your EIDM user ID using the email address associated with your CROWNWeb, REMIS, and ESRD QIP accounts.

CMS will release additional guidance for requesting your Quality Net Authorization Role Management (QARM) system access in the near future. QARM Security Officials will approve ESRD QIP roles in the QARM system.

EIDM information and documentation can be found in the FAQ section of the CMS Portal website. Additional information on the EIDM/QARM Transition is being shared through the CROWNWeb EIDM and QARM Quick Start Guide as well as CROWNWeb Training Sessions found on MYCROWNWeb.org (schedule and additional resources available at http://mycrownweb.org/education/eidmqarm-training/)

Announcing Dates for the ESRD Quality Incentive Program (QIP) Payment Year 2017 Preview Period

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is informing the End-Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) Network Organizations (Networks) that the Payment Year (PY) 2017 Preview Period for the ESRD Quality Incentive Program (QIP) will begin on August 15, 2016, and conclude at 5:00 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time on September 16, 2016. The Preview Period provides an important opportunity for each facility to review and pose questions about its ESRDQIP scores and any potential payment reductions that may result. CMS will conduct a National Provider Call (NPC) about the PY 2017 Preview Period on the afternoon of August 2, 2016.

Information about this NPC can be found online at https://blh.ier.intercall.com/details/ac80026a487443458643e3dff6b7abde.

May Clinical Data Submission Deadline Extension
To accommodate the July 19 transition from the Quality Net Identify Management System (QIMS) to the new Quality Net Account and Role Management (QARM) application, the deadline to submit May clinical data to CROWNWeb has been extended from July 31, 2016 to August 15, 2016.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Clinical Month</th>
<th>Original Submission Deadline</th>
<th>Revised Submission Deadline</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May 2016</td>
<td>July 31, 2016 at 11:59 p.m. ET</td>
<td>August 15, 2016 at 11:59 p.m. ET</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CDC is excited to announce two training opportunities for dialysis nurses and technicians on NHSN Dialysis Event Surveillance and reporting. Please share this announcement with your facilities.

**NHSN Dialysis Event Surveillance Training Webinars**
Please join us for two live webinars on August 1 and August 11 that will provide training for new or experienced NHSN users. CDC subject matter experts will be available to answer your questions about NHSN Dialysis Event Surveillance.

**Introduction to the NHSN Dialysis Event Surveillance Protocol:** National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) Dialysis Event Surveillance reporting is required for Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) End-Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) Quality Incentive Program (QIP) rule. This session will provide a complete introduction to the NHSN Dialysis Event reporting requirements and the surveillance definitions necessary to complete accurate monthly reporting.

**August 1, 12:00pm ET**
No registration required. On the day of the meeting, follow these steps:

1. Join the meeting online: [https://cc.readytalk.com/r/sz13buxsxb16&eom](https://cc.readytalk.com/r/sz13buxsxb16&eom)
2. **Listen-only audio** will be available through your computer speakers. Chat function will be available for questions and answers.
   a. If you're unable to get audio through your computer speakers, you can dial-in by phone to hear the audio: toll number 303.248.0285 / Conference ID: 6393927*.

**Advanced NHSN Dialysis Event Surveillance Reporting and Introduction to NHSN Reports** Learn how to apply National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) Dialysis Event Surveillance definitions through case studies that address common reporting questions. The session also will include an introduction to running and interpreting the most popular NHSN reports so you can review your facility's data, including Dialysis Event bloodstream infection rates.

**August 11, 3:00pm ET**
No registration required. On the day of the meeting, follow these steps:

1. Join the meeting online: [https://cc.readytalk.com/r/6xg3xn1p84pa&eom](https://cc.readytalk.com/r/6xg3xn1p84pa&eom)
2. **Listen-only audio** will be available through your computer speakers. Chat function will be available for questions and answers.
   a. If you're unable to get audio through your computer speakers, you can dial-in by phone to hear the audio: toll number 303.248.0285 / Conference ID: 6393927*.

**Partnering With You For Success!**
Please be sure you have reviewed our latest blast fax that went out on July 25th. 100% of ALL patients must be verified between the 1st and 5th of the month. If you did not receive this Blast Fax, please contact our office ASAP.

**Part Verification Process**
The goal is that **every** patient gets verified by the 5th business day of the month. This should be done on or after the 1st of the month. Verify current patients first, matching to your internal facility census. Then do it for "No PART > 30 days" to capture patients that were discharged or new admissions.
Partnering with you to be compliant: On July 7\(^{th}\) (5\(^{th}\) business day), we had 395 units completed their PARTs with all the patients. 67.5\% compliance at the unit level. The Network called units that had >10 patients not verified and emailed units with 10 or fewer patients not done. We had 6684 patients had not been verified - that is 20\% of our population. CMS is looking at the patient level.

One of the biggest barriers we found was lack of access to CROWNWeb or only one person having access. At a minimum, there should be 2 CROWNWeb users at each facility.

If you have not seen our "FAX BLAST" that was sent in June on the PART process, you can find it via our knowledge basis portal: [http://help.esrd.ipro.og](http://help.esrd.ipro.og) or send us an email @ NW9Help@iproesrdnetwork.freshdesk.com and we will send it to you.

Doing the PART verification correctly ensures that you are reviewing every patient every month and will help the End Of Year, 2744 process go smoother.

---

**Upcoming Network 9 Events**

**NW9 PAC Call**

Join our Patient Services Department for monthly Patient Advisory Committee Call! Last month we kicked off our PAC with our first call and there was great involvement. We are looking to improve our PAC member count and continue to build patient involvement. If you are looking to be a great link and patient advocate join the call. Also if you have any patients in the clinic who are interested please fill out our PAC Nomination Form [here](http://help.esrd.ipro.og) and fax to (216) 593-0101

**Date:** Thursday, July 28, 2016  
**Time:** 2:00 - 3:00p.m. ET  
**Register:** No registration necessary to participate. Dial in at 1-877-309-2073 and enter in pass code 807-453-285. If you have computer access you can attend the meeting online as well at [https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/807453285](https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/807453285)

**Access for Success - Network Webinar Event**

Join the Network as we discuss the impact of long-term catheter use. Marc Babic, RN, expert in vascular access intervention, will be featured as a speaker. To access the flyer click [here](http://help.esrd.ipro.og)

**Date:** Tuesday, August 9, 2016  
**Time:** 1:00 - 2:00p.m. ET  
**Register:** Prior to the event date, please register by visiting [https://qualitynet.webex.com](https://qualitynet.webex.com)

**41st Annual Renal Symposium**

**Thursday, September 8 & Friday, September 9  
Wagner’s Country Inn, Westlake**

The Renal Symposium attracts over 400 participants from the renal community, including nurses, technicians, social workers, transplant coordinators and dieticians. Speakers provide the latest information regarding kidney disease, as participants earn continuing education units and network. Over 30 vendors attend the event, displaying the latest products and services pertaining to kidney disease. Click the link to the website to sign up!

**Multidisciplinary Symposium**

Join the American Society of Pediatric Nephrology with their weekend Multidisciplinary Symposium. Featuring multiple pediatric, nephrology and pharmacy specialist and breakout sessions. To access the PDF with session names, topics, and registration details [Click Here!](http://help.esrd.ipro.og)
Quality Improvement

When calling the Network or emailing us, please be sure to:

Include your CCN # (Medicare Provider #) in all your communications with the Network. If you are an Ohio facility, the number starts with "36", if you are an Indiana facility, the number starts with "15", and if you are a Kentucky facility, the number starts with "18". We also remind you to NEVER email Protected Health Information (DOB, SS#, name). You may fax this information at 216-593-0101.

Free Online Influenza Training

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) are offering free, online trainings are available for health care professionals to build their influenza knowledge and earn continuing education credits (CME & CE)!
Topics include:

- "Strategies for Improving Rapid Influenza Testing in Ambulatory Settings"
- "Real Talk About Influenza Vaccine - Be Informed and Be Prepared"
- "Preparedness & Community Response to Pandemics"

Find out more about these courses along with many other great training opportunities. Click here.

CMS Proposes Rule to Improve Health Equity and Care Quality in Hospitals

On June 13, CMS proposed new standards to improve the quality of care and advance health equity in our nation's hospitals. The proposal applies to the 6,228 hospitals and critical access hospitals that participate in Medicare or Medicaid. The rule proposes to reduce overuse of antibiotics and implement comprehensive requirements for infection prevention. CMS estimates that these new requirements could save hospitals up to $284 million annually, while also improving care and potentially saving lives. The proposed rule also:

- Advances protections for traditionally underserved and often excluded populations based on race, color, religion, national origin, sex (including gender identity), age, disability, or sexual orientation
- Requires critical access hospitals to implement and maintain a Quality Assessment and Performance Improvement (QAPI) program

For More Information:

- Proposed Rule: CMS will accept comments until August 15, 2016
- Fact Sheet
- CMS press release

Patient Services

Emergency Preparedness

The Current Zika Outbreak
Zika virus spreads to people primarily through the bite of an infected Aedes species mosquito (Ae. aegypti and Ae. albopictus). Zika outbreaks are currently happening in many countries and territories. The mosquitoes that can become infected with and spread Zika live in many parts of the world, including parts of the United States.

Specific areas where Zika virus is spreading are often difficult to determine and are likely to change over time. If traveling, please visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Travelers’ Health website for the most recent travel information.

For more information about Zika, visit the CDC website and review these helpful resources:

- Zika: The Basics of the Virus
- Zika: What Can Be Done (English / Spanish)

**Patient trial confirms Wearable Artificial Kidney proof of concept**

Follow this link to access the full article

---

**Relationship Between Age and Pre-End Stage Renal Disease Care in Elderly Patients Treated with Maintenance Hemodialysis**

For patients with advanced kidney disease, early referral for specialty care may slow the decline of renal function, reduce healthcare costs, and improve patient quality of life and clinical outcomes after dialysis initiation. Unfortunately, 30-50% of patients undergoing maintenance dialysis in the United States do not receive adequate pre-ESRD care before starting dialysis. Therefore, this study sought to determine if age influences pre-ESRD care by conducting a national population analysis to assess potential age-related variations in three pre-ESRD elements. These elements were 1.) receipt of nephrology care at least 12 months prior to the initiation of dialysis, 2.) receipt of dietitian care prior to the initiation of dialysis, and 3.) the use of a fistula for the first dialysis treatment in patients undergoing maintenance hemodialysis.

Less than 2% of patients treated with maintenance HD received all three forms of pre-ESRD care, and 63.3% received none of the three elements of care. The mean number of pre-ESRD care elements received by the oldest group (80 years and older) did not differ from the youngest group (less than 55 years), but was less than the 55 to 66 and 67 to 79 years' groups.

A major effort is needed to ensure comprehensive pre-ESRD care for all patients with advanced chronic kidney disease, especially for the youngest and oldest patient groups, who were less likely to receive recommended pre-ESRD care.

Follow this link to access a PDF version

---

**Data Management**

**ESRD QIP - Reviewing Your Facility’s PY 2017 Performance Data Call**

Do you participate in the End-Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) Quality Incentive Program (QIP)? Preliminary Payment Year (PY)

Performance Score Reports (PSRs) will be available on August 15. Find out how to access, review, and submit a formal inquiry about your report by the September 16 deadline. A question and answer session will follow the presentation.

**Tuesday, August 2, 2016 from 2:30 to 4 pm ET**
Agenda:
- Accessing and reviewing your PSR
- How CMS calculates your performance score using quality data
- What the performance score means for your PY 2017 payment rates
- How to submit one formal inquiry about your PSR
- Making performance data transparent to patients
- Where to access help and additional information

To register or for more information, visit MLN Connects® Event Registration. Space may be limited, register early.

Reminder - Pain Assessment and Depression Screening Reporting Deadlines

CMS is interested in how Medicare-certified dialysis providers perform pain assessments and clinical depression screenings. To analyze these important issues, CMS incorporated "Clinical Depression Screening and Follow-Up" and "Pain Assessment and Follow-Up" as new reporting measures in the agency's Payment Year (PY) 2018 ESRD Quality Incentive Program (ESRD QIP).

To comply with these new reporting measures, authorized facility representatives are required to use CROWNWeb to indicate, for each qualified patient, whether they conducted a pain assessment and a clinical depression screening during the performance period, and whether a patient was referred for follow-up for either of these conditions. For more information about the ESRD QIP click here.

- Pain assessment and follow-up reporting to be completed for each qualifying patient once before August 1, 2016 and once before February 1, 2017.
- Clinical Depression screening and follow-up reporting to be completed for each qualifying patient once before February 1, 2017.

Click here to download the finalized PY 2018 Clinical Measures slides.

Have You Used the Network Data Knowledge Base and Customer Portal?
Get Answers to Your Questions Quickly

With the increase in data that must be submitted, as well as systems through which the data is collected, there are multiple ways in which you can reach the Network Data Support Team for help.

- The ESRD Network Data Department can be reached at the following email address: NW9Help@iproesrdnetwork.freshdesk.com
- The Network data team can be reached by phone at 216-593-0001.

*Please remember that you should NEVER include any patient-specific information such as Name, Date of Birth, Social Security Number, Medicare Claim Number, etc. The only patient identifier that can safely be communicated is the Unique Patient Identifier (UPI) from CROWNWeb.*

Did you Know?

The IPRO ESRD Network of the Ohio River Valley offers Newsletters for Providers and Patients, Weather Emergency announcements, as well as Educational Webinars.

If you are interested in signing up for any or all of these Click Here!
Upcoming Meeting & Events

**Monday, August 1, 2016** - The Renal Support Network's (RSN) 14th Annual Essay Contest submission deadline. Visit the [RSN website](#) for more information.


---

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-500-2016-00009C.

We're currently in the planning stages of our Annual Fall Event. This has historically been one of our biggest fundraisers of the year, and we could always use more help. To learn more about how you can volunteer, please email Rick Todd at [email@constantcontact.com](mailto:email@constantcontact.com). [Learn More](#).