

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

Forum Matters

Priority Issues

The Forum Board of Directors met on June 6 - 7, 2009. Priority issues were discussed and next steps identified.

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Forum Action/Motion	Next Steps
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Provide support for Networks	Forum leadership presented to CMS in April documentation on the need for increased funding for Networks. This communication will be continued with an additional call with CMS, scheduled for this month. Topics for the call will include: Network funding, cost of living adjustments, transparency, and work of the Networks on technical assistance to facilities.
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	The Forum has developed a workgroup to pursue a strategy for educating Congressional representatives on the risks of invalid data reporting and how Networks can protect patients in a bundled payment environment.
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	The Forum has created a workgroup to develop a definition of technical assistance as it pertains to the next Statement of Work. A formal communication plan has been approved.
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	Orientation/resource materials for the MAC were distributed. Network leadership are invited to participate in Board meetings conducted in their region.
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	The Policies & Procedures manual is being revised. When complete, it will be posted online to serve as a governance resource for Networks.
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	Forum Board members extend an offer to attend Network meetings to discuss the activities and value of the Forum.
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Communication with the renal community	Forum leadership has been communicating with providers regarding Network quality projects and how Networks and LDOs can partner to help facilities improve performance. A conference call between Forum and LDO leaders will be scheduled for this summer.
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Pursue partnerships to address national issues that affect the Networks	The Forum is pursuing a relationship with RPA (on legislative strategies) and AAKP (on data validation). Communication with AHRQ has been initiated and is on-going.
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Evaluate the success of the Forum in meeting its mission	Metrics have been approved by the Board and will begin to be implemented this summer.
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Educate the community about the contributions of the Forum	Historical documents are provided on the Forum website.
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Spotlight: Provision of Training for Networks

- The Forum is coordinating the national seminar “Quality Improvement Redesign: Demonstrating Success in Network Quality Initiatives”, on August 25, 2009, in Baltimore, Maryland.
 - Attendees will include Network Executive Directors and Quality Improvement Directors, Network Medical Review Board members, the Forum Board of Directors, and other invited guests.
 - Seminar topics will include attribution, root cause analysis, the business case for change, data analysis and display, powerful reporting, and converting data into information for action and sustaining improvement.

The Forum has formed a workgroup to discuss means of providing ongoing education to its membership. Topics to be considered include the National Priorities Partnership (NPP) recommendations for action; DICE scores; and a tutorial on “Wicked Problems and Social Complexity”, by Jeff Conklin, Ph.D (This paper is Chapter 1 in the forthcoming book *Dialogue Mapping: Defragmenting Projects through Shared Understanding*.)

Spotlight: Forum MAC toolkits

Under the leadership of Chair Stuart Goldstein, MD, the Forum Medical Advisory Council (MAC) has worked over the last six months to develop resource toolkits on four key topics: medication reconciliation, vaccination, diabetes management, and catheter reduction.

All four toolkits were designed so that they can be adapted according to a facility’s particular needs and challenges in meeting the requirements of the Conditions for Coverage.

The toolkits were approved by the Forum Board of Directors at its June meeting. Following a final round of reviews, Network staff will be trained on the toolkits by the MAC in July. A press release and media toolkit will be developed.

It is expected that the toolkits will be available to the general public via the Forum website by late summer or early fall.

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Forum Representatives in the Renal Community

- Dr. Goldman is the Forum representative to KCQA.
- Dr. Jackson is the Forum representative to the National Quality Forum (NQF). Dr. Jackson will attend the NQF meeting on March 25-27 on "Waste Not, Want Not: The Right Care for Every Patient".
- Dr. Meyer serves as the Forum representative to the USRDS External Advisory Committee.
- Drs. Garrett, Latos, and Goldman are on the National Kidney Disease Education Program (NKDEP) Coordinating Council.
- Ms. Carlson and Ms. Kitsen are the Forum representatives to UNOS/OPTN.
- Dr. Goldman is on the Board of the American Association of Kidney Patients (AAKP).

Upcoming Forum Meetings

- The Forum will coordinate "Quality Improvement Redesign: Demonstrating Success in Network Quality Initiatives", on August 25, 2009.
- The Forum Board of Directors will meet in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, on October 10 - 11, 2009.

Did You Know?

- The Forum was a key partner in the development of the Patient Safety Website (<http://www.kidneypatientsafety.org/>)
- The Forum assisted with the coordination of the national CPM QI Committee.
- The Forum was a leader in the development of the Decreasing Dialysis Patient-Provider Conflict (DPC) materials.