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January 14, 2022

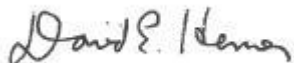
In the first few days of 2022, Forum physician leaders began sharing concerns they were seeing in their communities regarding shortages of dialysis supplies, in particular; Bicarb, Granuflo and dialyzers. In response to these concerns and the increase in dialysis staffing shortages, Forum leadership requested an emergency call with CMS Division of Kidney Health (DKH) Director, Shalon Quinn. Dr. Quinn was hearing similar reports and asked the Forum to collect data about the supply and staffing shortages from our membership.

On Friday, January 7, 2022, The National Forum of ESRD Networks sent a survey link to its membership including the Network Executive Directors and Medical Advisory Council (MAC) members, asking them to share the survey with facilities and colleagues in their regions.

More than 100 responses were received by the afternoon of Sunday, January 9, 2022. To follow, is a summary of the responses which was presented and shared with CMS DKH during a call on Monday, January 10, 2022.

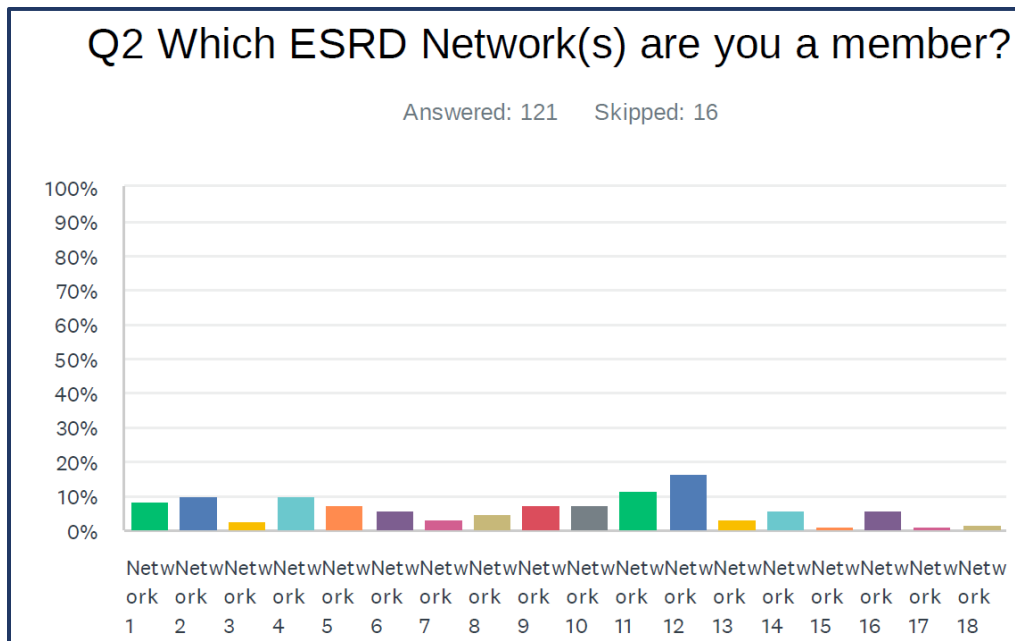
Forum leaders extend their great appreciation to those who completed the survey, sharing data about what they are experiencing in their facilities.

Sincerely,

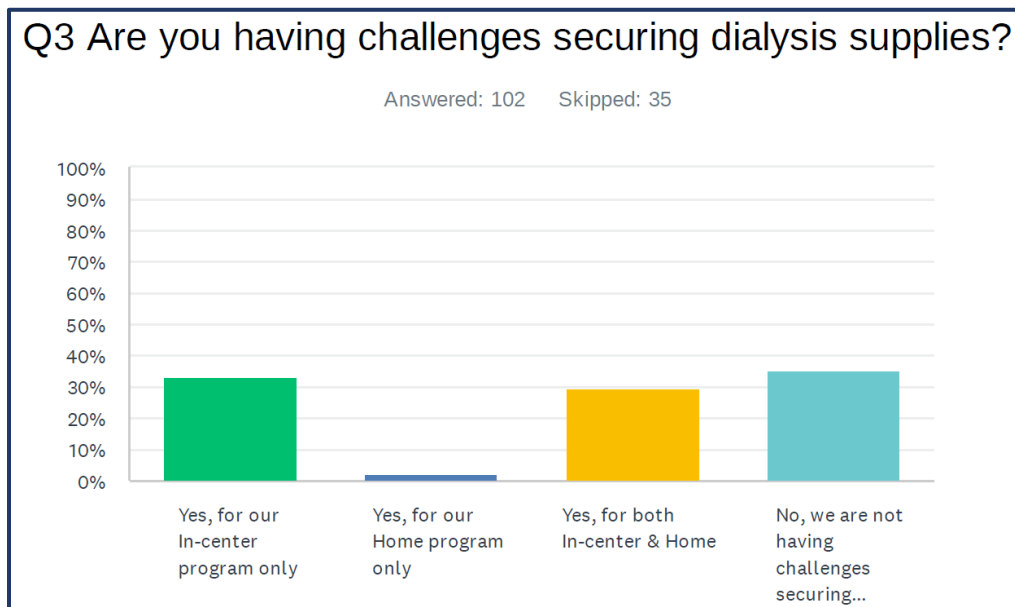


David E. Henner, DO  
President, Forum of ESRD Networks

In total, the Forum of ESRD Networks received 121 responses to survey. We received responses from around the US, including responses from all 18 ESRD Networks.



Approximately 65% of dialysis facilities or Networks that responded to the survey reported challenges securing dialysis supplies for in-center program, home program, or both in-center and home.

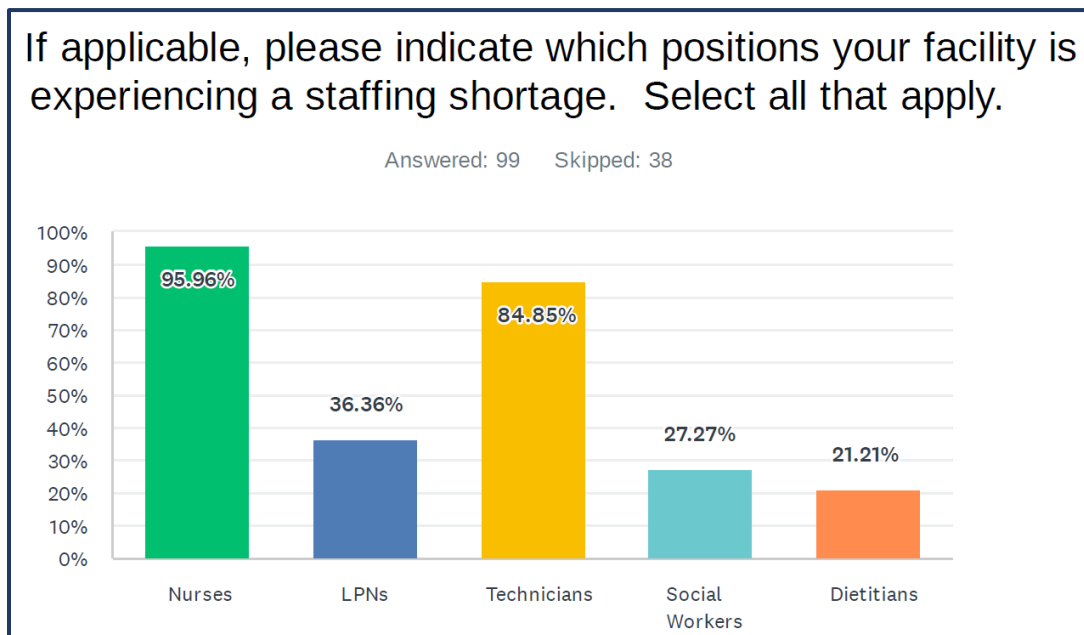


## SUMMARY OF SUPPLY SHORTAGES:

- The most common supplies reported in survey as being short on supply include acid concentrate, bicarbonate, and CRRT fluid. Other supplies reported to be in short supply in certain facilities and areas in US include PD fluid, dialyzers, saline, gloves, gauze, tape, alcohol wipes, needles, syringes, blood tubing, temporary catheters, COVID-19 tests, EMLA cream sodium citrate, and chlorhexidine swabs.
- Regarding acid concentrate and bicarbonate shortages, most commonly FMC products were mentioned as being in short supply, including Granuflo, Citrasate and other liquid acid concentrates.
- Several products, including acid concentrate, CRRT fluid and bicarbonate was mentioned to be in critical shortage currently.
- Areas of US that reported experiencing supply shortages, included “The entire country”, “Across the US”, “Nationwide”, and more specific areas included Texas (all areas) and Louisiana (all areas), Washington State, Oregon, New York State, Mid-Atlantic, Massachusetts, Boston, Providence Rhode Island, California, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Georgia and South Carolina, Virginia, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Missouri, Montana, South Dakota, Illinois, Indiana

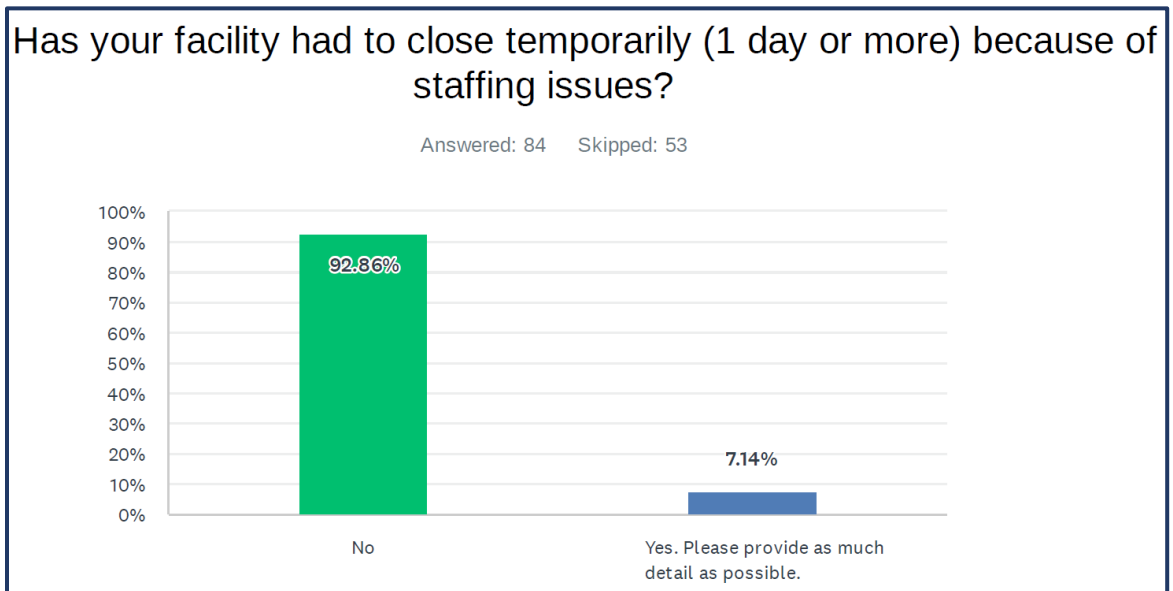
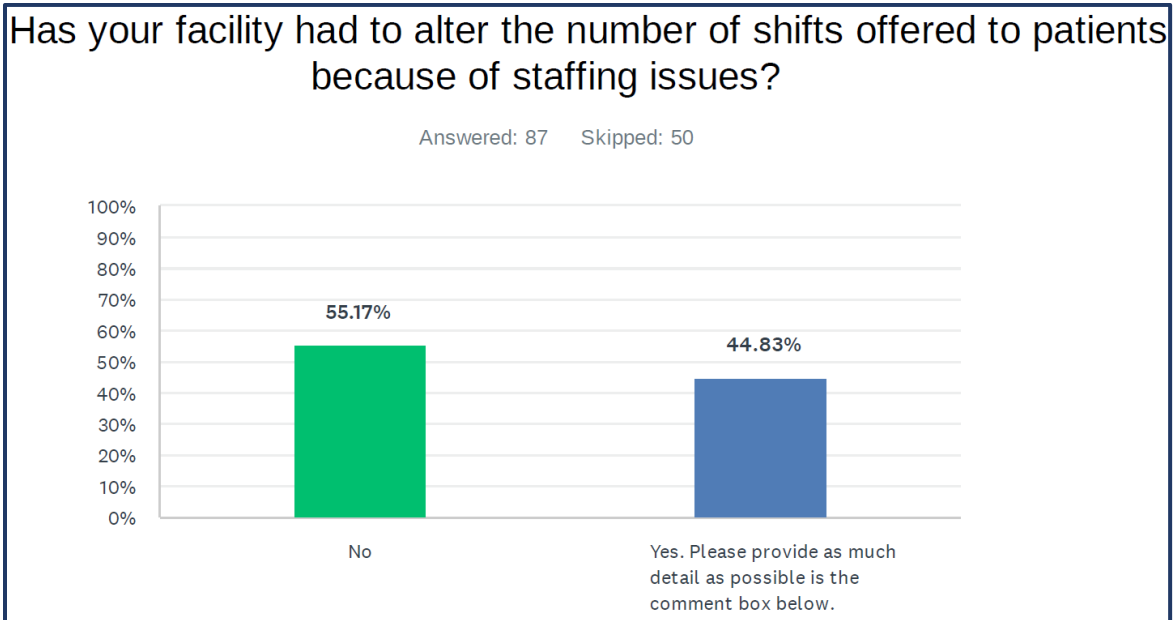
## STAFFING SHORTAGES:

Over 95% of facilities responding to survey reported Nurse shortage and over 84% reported shortage if Technicians. Many also reported shortages of LPNs, Social Workers and Dietitians.



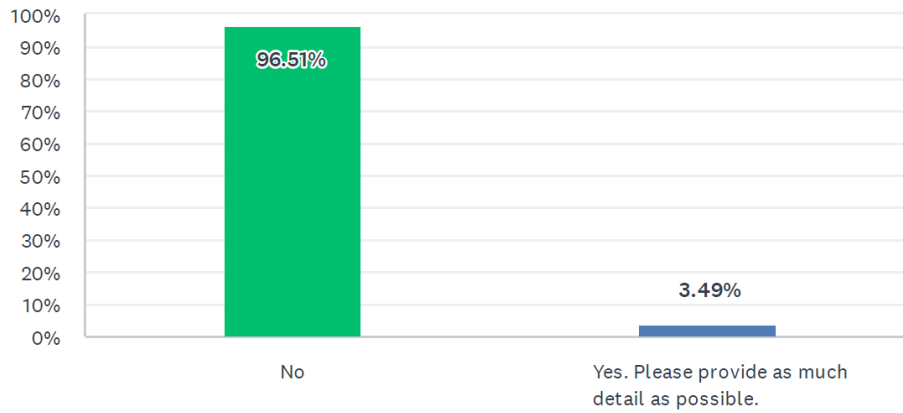
The average % of usual RN and Technician staffing reported was about 70%, with several facilities reporting operating at below 70% usual RN and Technician staffing. Several facilities also reported needing to use Traveler RNs or Technicians currently to help with shortage. Other facilities reported they could not obtain any Traveler staff to help.

Over 55% of facilities reported they had to alter the number of shifts offered to patients due to staffing issues.



## Has your facility closed permanently because of staffing issues?

Answered: 86 Skipped: 51



## Has your facility had to shorten patients' treatment times because of staffing issues?

Answered: 86 Skipped: 51

