



Forum Matters

Highlights & Updates

Second Quarter 2023

What is the Forum?



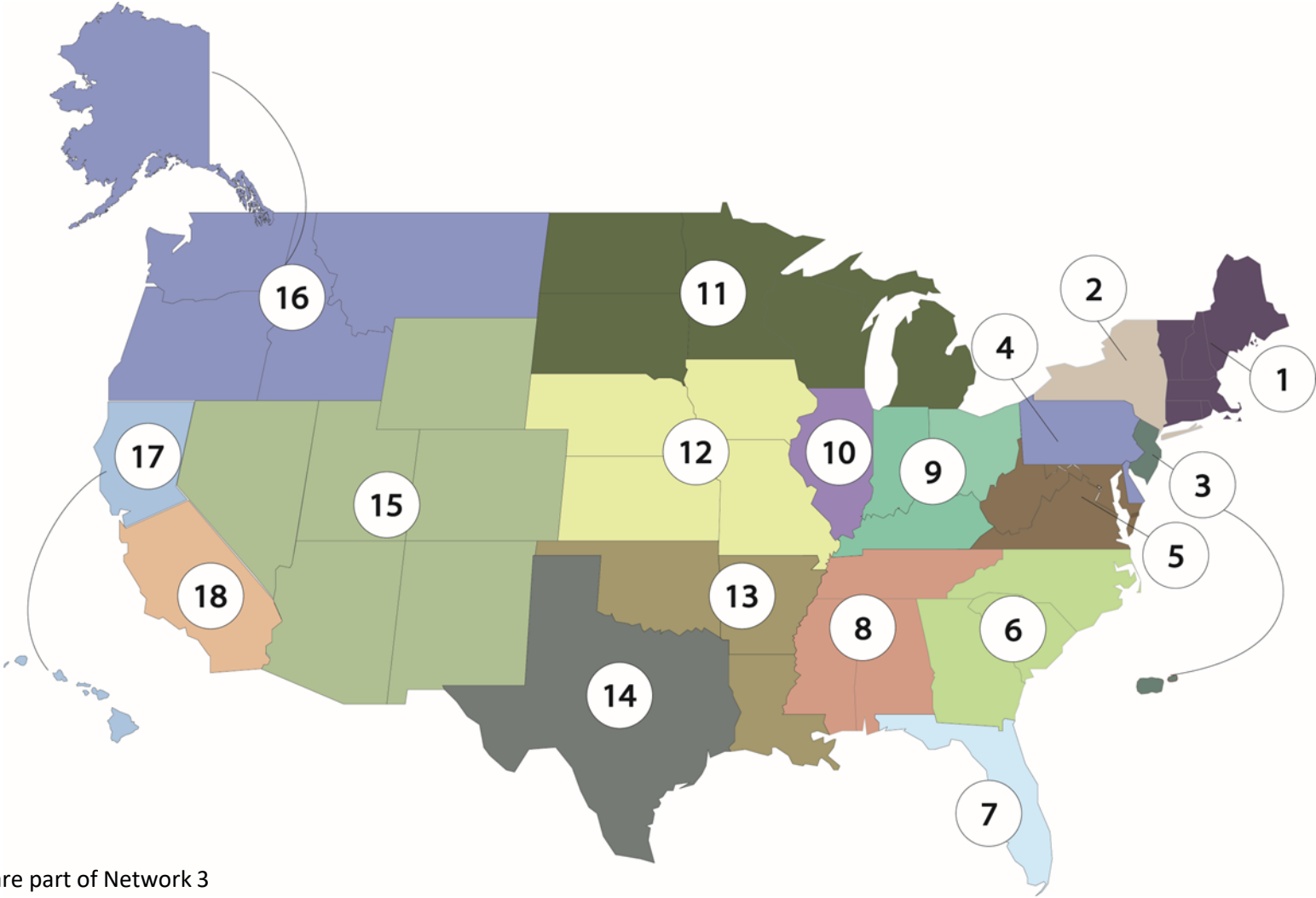
All ESRD Networks are members of the Forum of ESRD Networks, which is a not-for-profit organization that advocates on behalf of its membership and coordinates projects and activities of mutual interest to ESRD Networks. The Forum facilitates the flow of information and advances a national quality agenda with CMS and other renal organizations.

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.

CORE VALUES:

- Volunteerism
- Collaboration
- Innovation and Flexibility
- Spread of Knowledge
- Integrity
- Autonomy of Individual ESRD Networks
- Person (Patient & Family) Centeredness

ESRD Networks

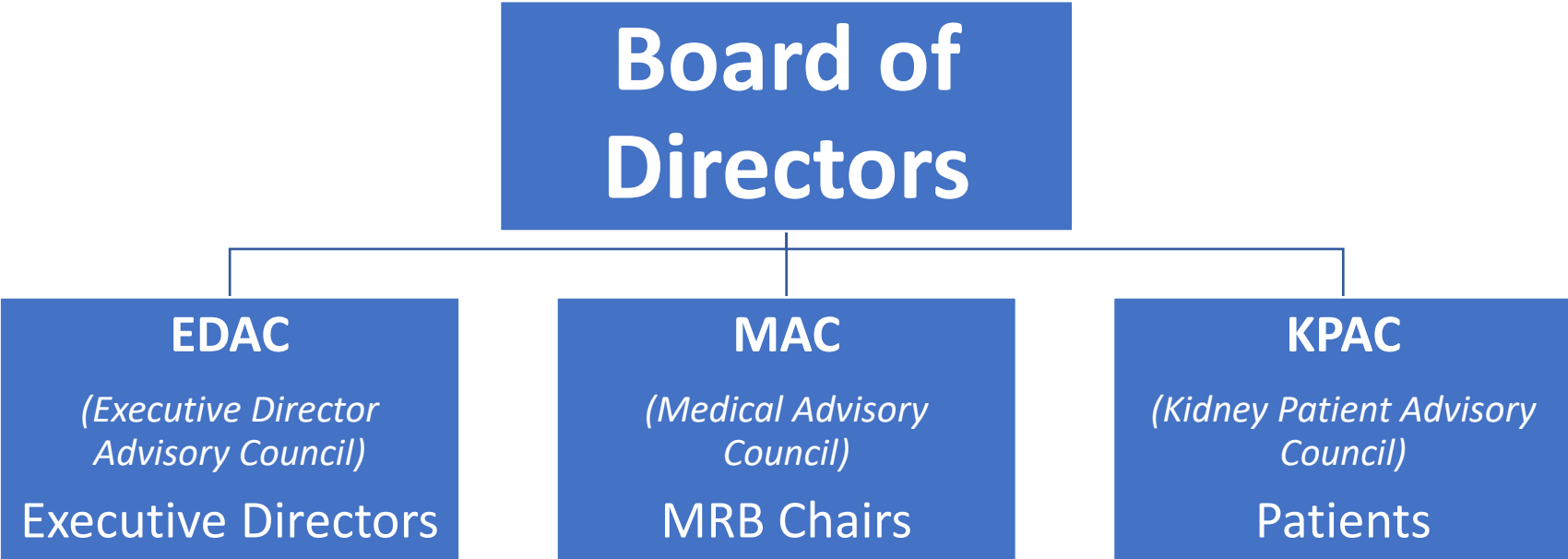


Puerto Rico and Virgin Islands are part of Network 3
Hawaii, Guam, American Samoa are part of Network 17

Strategic Planning Priorities and Updates

- Strategic Partnerships
 - Continued collaboration with CMS, RPA, and other stakeholders
 - Continued development of new toolkits and updates to existing toolkits
- Board Development
 - Conducted Board elections for President-Elect, Treasurer, and 3 Members-at-Large in Spring 2023
 - Engaged in NKF Policy presentation at March 2023 Board meeting
- Customer Outreach, Sharing, & Engagement
 - Developed social media plan for 2023
 - Reported toolkit downloads (since 2019) via Quality Conference poster
 - Established LinkedIn profile (now have a modest 80 followers)
 - Increased followers on Twitter (331 → 383) and Facebook (303 → 315)
 - Posted *Forum Matters* to the Forum website
- Resource Identification
 - Worked on fundraising plan to diversify revenue sources to increase overall asset base

Organizational Chart



- Assisting the Networks
- Council Activities: MAC, EDAC KPAC
- Regular Communication with CMS
- Facilitate flow of information between the Forum and Network Staff/BOD/MRB/PAC
- Relationships with other Stakeholders (i.e., RHA, RPA, LDOs, NKF, AAKP, CDC, ASN)

Forum Presidents



Elbert P. Tuttle, Jr.

(1976-1978)

Robert J. Soberman

(1978-1980)

Frederick Westervelt

(1980-1982)

Dominick E. Gentile, MD

(1982-1984)

William W. Pfaff, MD

(1984-1986)

Sidney Baskin

(1986-1989)

John L. Bengfort, MD

(1989-1992)

John D. Bower, MD

(1992-1994)

Louis H. Diamond, MB, ChB, FACP

(1994-1998)

Jay B. Wish, MD

(1998-2001)

Alan S. Kliger, MD

(2001-2004)

Derrick L. Latos, MD, MACP

(2004-2006)

Richard S. Goldman, MD

(2006-2009)

Cynthia Kristensen, MD

(2009-2011)

Klemens Meyer, MD

(2011-2012)

Andrew D. Howard, MD, FACP

(2012-2015)

John Wagner, MD, MBA

(2015-2017)

Donald Molony, MD

(2017-2019)

Ralph Atkinson III, MD

(2019-2021)

David Henner, DO

(2021 - 2023)

Kam Kalantar-Zadeh, MD, MPH, PhD

(2023-Present)

Forum Board of Directors (July 2023)



Executive Committee:

President: Kam Kalantar-Zadeh, MD, MPH, PhD

President-Elect: Dan Landry, DO, FASN

Past President: David Henner, DO

Treasurer: Stephanie Hutchinson, MBA

Secretary: Chris Brown

MAC Chair: Dan Landry, DO, FASN

MAC Vice-Chair: Preethi Yerram, MD, MS, FASN

EDAC Chair: Vicky Cash, MBA, BSN, RN

EDAC Vice-Chair: Mary Albin, BS, CPHQ

KPAC Co-Chair: Derek Forfang

KPAC Co-Chair: Dawn Edwards

Members-at-Large:

Christine Logar, MD, FASN

Kelly M. Mayo, MS

Keith Norris, MD PhD

Stephen Pastan, MD

Maria Regnier, MSN, RN, CNN

Dee LeDuc

Debra Hain, PhD, APRN, AGPCNP-BC, FAAN, FAANP, FNKF

Ad Hoc:

Andrew Howard, MD, FACP

Donald Molony, MD

John Wagner, MD, MBA

Emeritus:

Louis Diamond, MB, ChB, FACP, FCP (SA)

Executive Directors Advisory Council (July 2023)



Chair:	Vicky Cash, MBA, BSN, RN
Vice-Chair:	Mary Albin, BS, CPHQ
Networks 1/2	Sue Caponi, MBA, RN, BSN, CPHQ
Networks 3/4	Chris Brown
Network 5	Brandy Vinson
Network 6	Danielle Daley, MBA
Networks 7/13/15/17/18	Helen Rose, MSW, BSW, LCSW
Networks 8/14	Mary Albin, BS, CPHQ
Network 9	Vicky Cash, MBA, BSN, RN
Network 10	Audrey Broaddus
Network 11	Dee LeDuc
Network 12	Stephanie Smith
Network 16	Stephanie Hutchinson, MBA

Medical Advisory Council (July 2023)



Chair: Daniel L. Landry, DO, FASN

Vice Chair: Preethi Yerram, MD, MS, FASN

Immediate Past Chair: Kam Kalantar-Zadeh, MD, MPA, PhD

Network 1: Daniel L. Landry, DO, FASN

Network 2: George Coritsidis, MD

Network 3: Keith Norris, MD, PhD

Network 4: Paul Palevsky, MD

Network 5: Marc Brazie, MD

Network 6: John J. Doran, MD, FASN

Network 7: Debra Hain, PhD, APRN, AGPCNP-BC, FAAN, FAANP, FNKF

Network 8: Martha Tankersley, MSN, RN

Network 9: Anne Huml, MD, MS

Network 10: Daniel Roseman, MD

Network 11: Louis Raymond, MD

Network 12: Preethi Yerram, MD, MS, FASN

Network 13: Laura Rankin, MD

Network 14: Donald Molony, MD

Network 15: Harmeet Singh, MD

Network 16: Christine Logar, MD

Network 17: Ramin Sam, MD

Network 18: Kam Kalantar-Zadeh, MD, MPH, PhD

Ad Hoc Member: Stephen Pastan, MD

EDAC Rep: Sue Caponi, MBA, RN, BSN, CPHQ (1/2)

QID Rep: Barbara Dommert-Breckler, RN, BSN, CNN (16)

KPAC Rep: Derek Forfang (17)

Kidney Patient Advisory Council (July 2023)



- | | | | |
|-------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Network 1: | Jerry Calabritto | Network 12: | Shane Blanchard |
| Network 2: | Stephanie Dixon | Network 13: | Bobby Walker |
| | Dawn Edwards (Co-Chair) | Network 14: | Precious McCowan |
| Network 3: | Bill Senior | | Abby Ruiz |
| | Joy Solomon | Network 15: | Lynne Hall |
| Network 4: | Timmy Nelson | Network 16: | Bob Crabtree |
| Network 5: | Virna Elly | | Lisa Custer |
| | Patrick Gee | Network 17: | Derek Forfang (Co-Chair) |
| Network 6: | Dolores McGrath | | Doris Lew |
| Network 7: | Janice Starling | Network 18: | Terry McCallum |
| Network 8: | Marquita Kirk | EDAC Rep: | Dee LeDuc (NW 11) |
| Network 9: | Evan Coaker | PSD Reps: | Yessi Cubillo (NW 3) |
| Network 10: | Quin Taylor | | Lisa Hall, MSSW, LICSW (NW 16) |
| Network 11: | Jeff Nelson | | |
| | Patricia Bologna | | |
| | Mary Baliker | | |

Forum Leadership Calls & Meetings

Forum Executive Committee:

- Monthly conference calls

Forum Board of Directors:

- Quarterly conference calls
- 2023 Meetings: March 7 & 10 (virtual); September 22-23, 2023 (Denver, CO)

CMS/Forum Leadership Calls

- Monthly conference calls
- In-person meetings at CMS Quality Conference (2020, no in-person meeting in 2021, 2022, or 2023)

CMS/Network/Forum COVID-19 Calls

- Weekly calls began April 2020, transitioned to monthly in November 2020, ended May 2021, monthly calls resumed August 2021, bi-monthly calls began February 2022

Medical Advisory Council (MAC)

- Quarterly conference calls
- Annual MAC Meeting: November 1, 2023 (Philadelphia, PA)

Executive Director Advisory Council (EDAC)

- Monthly conference calls
- Meeting with CMS & Division of Kidney Health/iQIIG Leaders
- Periodic calls with FMC, DaVita, RHA

Kidney Patient Advisory Council (KPAC)

- Monthly conference calls

Highlights from June 2023 Meeting

- BOD
 - The Board reviewed the March 2023 meeting evaluation results which were positive overall with suggestions for improvement.
 - The Board reviewed the Spring 2023 Board of Directors election results:
 - President-Elect: Dan Landry, DO, FASN
 - Treasurer: Stephanie Hutchinson, MBA
 - Members-at-Large: Christine Logar, MD, Dee LeDuc, Debra Hain, PhD, APRN, AGPCNP-BC, FAAN, FAANP, FNKF
- KPAC
 - The KPAC met with CDC representatives to discuss staph BSI and race. Three KPAC members will participate in a patient panel about infection control at the Making Dialysis Safer Coalition virtual meeting in July 2023.
 - The KPAC is partnering with the MAC on the updated home dialysis toolkit.
- EDAC
 - OY2 began May 1, 2023, with a greater focus on health equity and vulnerable populations. Networks are also required to conduct site visits based and are hiring additional staff to undertake this task.
 - New contract measures include a BMI measure, data quality, and pneumonia vaccination to align with the CDC guidelines.
 - Ms. Cash reviewed the Network goals.

Highlights from June 2023 Meeting

- MAC
 - Dr. Landry reviewed Dr. Howard's slides on transplant metrics, noting that 2022 was a good year for transplants overall although living donor transplants still lagged.
 - The updated home dialysis toolkit has been through peer review and should be available soon.
 - The health equity and patient-provider collaboration toolkit is underway.
 - Two Sharing Highly Effective Practices (SHEP) initiatives have been posted to the Forum website at <https://esrdnetworks.org/education/sharing-highly-effective-practices-in-the-kidney-community/approved-highly-effective-practices/>.
- EQRS
 - The transplant dashboard is now available in EQRS.
 - Electronic 2728 and 2746 forms are anticipated for release this summer.
 - Peritonitis reporting should be released this summer.

Professional Toolkits

- Inpatient Medical Director Toolkit
- Kidney Transplant Toolkit
- Transitions of Care Toolkit
- Vaccination Toolkit
- Outpatient Medical Director Toolkit
- Home Dialysis Toolkit (update in progress)
- Catheter Reduction Toolkit
- QAPI Toolkit

Patient Toolkits

- Health Equity Toolkit (in progress)
- Dialysis Patient Depression Toolkit
- Dialysis Patient Grievance Toolkit
- Financial Help Resources
- Kidney Patient Transplant Toolkit
 - *Patient video providing an overview of the toolkit available at <https://media.esrdnetworks.org/documents/Is A Kidney Transplant Right For Me.mp4>; consider sharing with your patients!*

MAC Toolkit	Updates
Home Dialysis Toolkit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New sections to address AAKH and Conditions for Coverage updates • Emergency management of home dialysis patients • Impact of ESCOs, ETC Model, Voluntary Models on home therapies • Enhanced modality education: transitional care and hands-on experience care options • Emerging technology and the impact and benefits to home therapies • Addressing disparities and access to care • Home therapy options in the LTC/nursing home setting • KPAC Section: Empowering patients and care partners to be successful at home
Outpatient Medical Director Toolkit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emergency preparedness (Henner) • COVID (Kalantar) • Leadership (Molony)
Transitions of Care Toolkit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nursing home communication tool • COVID • Medication reconciliation • Add flu and COVID vaccine information to the transfer summary forms in the toolkit
Vaccination Toolkit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COVID Vaccination • Vaccination tracking tool now includes COVID vaccine and pneumococcal booster + age so facilities can track patients >64 YO for PPSV-23 booster

Regularly scheduled calls to discuss programmatic/strategic issues:

- **Anita Monteiro**, Director, iQuality Improvement & Innovation Group (iQIIG)
- **Shane Illies**, Deputy Director, iQIIG
- **Vacant**, CMS Chief Medical Officer for Quality Improvement
- **Shalon Quinn**, Special Advisor – Data Initiatives
- **Melissa Dorsey**, Director, Division of Kidney Health, iQIIG
- **Ann Turner**, Acting Deputy Director, Division of Kidney Health, iQIIG
- **Mitzi Christ**, Regional Program Manager, Division of Kidney Health, iQIIG
- CORs, ARAs, Central Office staff

2023 Calls: 2/13, 4/17, 6/12, 7/10

CMS Organizational Chart

Chiquita Brooks-LaSure,
Administrator, CMS

Liz Fowler
Director, Center for
Medicare and Medicaid
Innovation

iQuality Improvement & Innovation Group

Anita Monteiro, Director
Shane Illies, Deputy Director
Shalon Quinn, PhD, Special Advisory-Data Initiatives
Vacant, CMS Chief Medical Officer for Quality
Improvement



CMS Org Chart:

https://www.cms.gov/About-CMS/Agency-Information/CMSLeadership/Office_CCSQ.html

Highlights from the 2nd Quarter 2023

- Ann Turner has been named Acting Deputy Director of DKH; Melissa Dorsey will remain Director of DKH for at least one year.
- The Forum and CMS discussed the Network obesity measure throughout the 2nd quarter. Dr. Kalantar presented data on the “obesity paradox,” which has strong data to support it; higher BMI in dialysis patients demonstrates survival advantages.
- Discussion continued on staffing shortages. Of note, for the first time in its 50-year history, more dialysis facilities are closing vs. opening.
- The Forum has requested to have further discussions about the QIP measures and the Performance Score Certificates.
- Dr. Howard continued to share transplant metrics, including new data on high KDPI kidneys showing benefits for pre-emptive transplants.
- Mr. Brown continued to share COVID updates, noting data lags making it difficult to track the current vaccination status of patients.
- CMS/Forum leadership calls moved from every other month to monthly to allow for more frequent interaction.

What Else Has the Forum Been Doing?

- In May, the Forum met with DaVita representatives to discuss IVD and the Second Chance Program.
- In June, the Forum submitted comments to Battelle's Partnership for Quality Measurement (PQM) re: Spring 2023 Quality Measures:
 - Delay in Progression of CKD Measure
 - Risk Standardized Mortality Ratio for Late-Stage CKD and ESRD
 - ESRD Dialysis Patient Life Goals Survey (PaLS)

Read the public comments in full at

<https://media.esrdnetworks.org/documents/PQMMeasuresSpring2023PublicComment6.23.23.pdf>

- Two Sharing Highly Effective Practices (SHEP) initiatives have been approved and posted to the Forum website at <https://esrdnetworks.org/education/sharing-highly-effective-practices-in-the-kidney-community/approved-highly-effective-practices/>.

Forum Members in the Community



- P. Gee. Panelist, Patient Summit. National Kidney Foundation Spring Clinicals. Austin, TX. (April 2023)
- P. Gee. Panelist, Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing: Treating Trauma. National Kidney Foundation Spring Clinicals. Austin, TX. (April 2023)
- P. Gee. Panelist, Effective Patient Engagement with Telehealth. National Kidney Foundation Spring Clinicals. Austin, TX. (April 2023)
- P. Gee. American Heart Association's Cardio-Kidney Metabolic Health Meeting. Dallas, TX. (April 2023)
- P. Gee. American Kidney Fund. Patient Access Initiative Summit. Washington, DC. (April 2023)
- P. Gee. International Society of Medical Publications and Professionals (ISMPP) Conference. Washington, DC. (April 2023)
- M. Baliker. Featured in UNOS article about pediatric kidney transplant. (April 2023)
- L. Custer, D. Forfang. Hemodialysis Infection Prevention Simulation. Tennessee Department of Health. Virtual. (April 2023)
- D. Edwards. Advancing Patient Safety through Patient and Family Engagement. CMS Quality Conference. Virtual. (May 2023)
- D. Henner. Health Equity in Action - A Game Plan for Success for End Stage Renal Disease Care. CMS Quality Conference. Virtual. (May 2023)
- S. Hutchinson. Home Dialysis ECHO: Leveraging National Experts to Address Facility Barriers. CMS Quality Conference. Virtual. (May 2023)

Forum Members in the Community



- Kidney Patient Advisory Council. Poster: Patient Resources: Toolkits Created BY Patient FOR Patients. CMS Quality Conference. (May 2023)
- Medical Advisory Council. Poster: Forum of ESRD Networks Toolkits: Valuable Resources for Patients and Providers. CMS Quality Conference. (May 2023)
- D. Edwards, D. Forfang, M. Baliker, P. McCowan. A Scientific Workshop on Post-Dialysis Fatigue. National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases. Virtual. (May 2023)
- D. Edwards, et al. ISPD Catheter-related infection recommendations: 2023 update. *Peritoneal Dialysis International*. May 26, 2023;43(3):201-219. Available at <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/08968608231172740>.
- P. Gee (Interview). Dialysis was hell to me: A minister's injustice in his own medical care creates his passion for patient advocacy. *ASN Kidney News*. May 2023.
- D. Edwards, S. Dixon. Living Your Best Life with Kidney Disease. Decatur, GA. (June 2023)

On the Horizon in 2023



- Advancing American Kidney Health
- Focus on enhancing social media presence
- Updates to MAC Toolkits and development of three new MAC Toolkits
- New KPAC Toolkits
- Actively pursuing additional financial resources to support Forum/Network activities
- Sharing Highly Effective Practices in the Kidney Community: consider submitting a best practice to the Forum's new community education resource

<https://esrdnetworks.org/education/sharing-best-practices-in-the-kidney-community>

The Forum is committed to supporting the activities of the ESRD Networks and improving care for all kidney patients.

We have a variety of free educational materials on our website and more under development.

We are a nonprofit organization and do all this through volunteer members and limited financial resources.

Your donation directly supports this work.

All donations are tax deductible.

[Donate Here](https://esrdnetworks.org/donate)

<https://esrdnetworks.org/donate>

Donate Online!



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ESRD Networks - contact information

Welcome to the Forum of ESRD Networks website

Donate

The National Forum of ESRD Networks, Inc. is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization #13-3246354. Your donation is tax deductible to the extent allowable by law. No goods or services will be provided by the Forum in return or consideration for this contribution. Donations can also be mailed to the Forum Office at PO Box 203, Birchwood, WI 54817.

Donate now

What's new on the Forum website?

Learn about the new Transplant Toolkit for Patients

This 12-minute video provides an

Social Media



Followers:
Feb 2020 = 134
Aug 2022 = 303
July 2023 = 315



Followers:
Feb 2020 = 95
Aug 2022 = 331
July 2023 = 383



Followers:
March 2023 = 47
July 2023 = 80



Followers:
May 2021 = 6
Aug 2022 = 11
July 2023 = 12



Social Media



esrdnetworks.org



<https://facebook.com/esrdnetworks>



<https://twitter.com/ESRDNetworks> (tag us @esrdnetworks)



<https://www.linkedin.com/company/national-forum-of-esrd-networks-inc>



<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC9Vp4Hfu7VmSTbSwG7-6e2g>

Sharing something about the KPAC? Use #KPACPatientVoice

Questions / Comments:
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