

# SHARING BEST PRACTICE

The Forum of ESRD Networks has defined a **Best Practice** as:

*A procedure or set of processes that has been shown by research and/or experience to produce optimal results and that is established or proposed a practice suitable for widespread adoption.*

**Title/Name of Project:** Monthly Chairside Interdisciplinary Care Plan Meeting  
**Area of Interest:** Patient Engagement  
**Name of Organization/Contact:** David Henner, DO  
Berkshire Medical Center, Pittsfield, MA  
Southwestern Vermont Medical Center, Bennington, VT

**DESCRIPTION & OUTCOMES:** Every month, for Interdisciplinary Team (IDT) meetings (care plan meetings), we round as a team at chairside of every dialysis patient. The IDT includes the Nephrologist, RN, Social Worker, Dietitian and patient. Whether or not patient has a comprehensive assessment due, the entire IDT still rounds on each patient. The IDT reviews the care plan with the patient each month at chairside, including labs, advanced care planning, BP and volume control, nutrition, psychosocial, transplant status, home dialysis preferences, etc.. The Patient participates in discussions about care plan. The patient's family or caregiver is also invited to attend.

**EXPLAIN WHY THE PROJECT/ACTIVITY IS A BEST PRACTICE:** Our practice at our facility is included in the Joint Commission Leading Practice Library as "Renal Monthly Care Plan Meeting." By engaging patient directly in the care plan meeting we find the patient feels empowered to help in her/his care plan. Before we make any changes to medications, dialysis prescription, or other aspects of patient's care plan, by engaging the patient in discussions with team at the chairside, the information we obtain is first hand from the patient, and therefore much more accurate than obtaining it only from the chart. By updating the care plan each month, we make sure it is up to date and accurate, and the patient has opportunities every month to be educated or to pursue home modalities, transplant, or other key aspects of their care. Widespread adoption of this practice will likely result in improve patient engagement, improved patient experience of care, and improved results in improving transplant, home dialysis rates, as well as other important areas of dialysis patient care.

**WERE ANY FORUM/NETWORK TOOLS/INTERVENTIONS USED?** The Forum of ESRD Networks Medical Director Toolkit (governance, care plans, etc.) and Network Patient and Family engagement principles.

*This Best Practice was received by the Forum on May 7, 2019, and approved by the the Forum's Sharing Best Practice Review Committee on December 19, 2019.*