



Trial Basis Acceptance for “Access to Care” Patients

PURPOSE: Dialysis patients who are involuntarily discharged or who arrive with challenging behaviors often experience barriers to locating a nephrologist and/ or dialysis facility willing to provide chronic dialysis. This policy establishes guidelines for the initiation of an alternative that will allow nephrologists and dialysis facilities the option to accept a patient on a trial basis to determine if the provider can adequately meet the patient’s long-term needs.

Implementation of a Trial Basis

1. The Network or provider identify a patient based on the following criteria:
 - a. Patient is an established ESRD patient
 - b. Patient has been denied by area dialysis facilities
 - The Network has spoken with area dialysis facilities to confirm denial
 - c. Patient has been involuntarily discharged due to disruptive/abusive behavior
 - d. The Patient has demonstrated an improvement in behavior
 - The Network has spoken with the acute dialysis staff and/or other healthcare providers to verify an improvement.
2. Network 8 staff will meet to determine if a trial basis acceptance is appropriate for the patient situation and if the patient qualifies for requested permissions.
3. If determined appropriate, Network 8 staff, will initiate a trial basis.
4. Network 8 staff will contact the dialysis facility and offer a trial basis acceptance of the patient.
5. Network 8 staff will notify the State Survey Agency of the trial basis acceptance.
6. Facility staff will meet with the patient prior to admittance to discuss treatment expectations. Network 8 will assist the facility with the development of an *Expectations of Treatment* document to be signed by the interdisciplinary team and patient during the meeting.
7. Prior to the meeting, Network 8 staff will discuss with the patient the terms of the admittance to the facility and ensure the patient is aware of the conditions and is in agreement.
8. Network 8 staff will participate in the initial meeting via conference call or in-person.
9. Once the *Expectations of Treatment* document is signed, Network 8 will maintain a copy in the patient’s file.
10. Initiate a standard letter signing of no fault that allows the facility to discharge the patient within the 90 days if inappropriate behavior is exhibited. The letter will allow the facility to omit the customary involuntary discharge paperwork.

11. Network 8 staff will maintain monthly contact with the facility and patient for monitoring purposes for three months and assist with interventions as needed.
12. After a period of 90 days, the trial basis ends and the patient becomes a permanent patient of the facility.

Failure to Comply with the Trial Basis

If the patient fails to comply with the terms/conditions of the *Expectation of Treatment* document and the facility desires to discharge the patient, the facility staff will notify Network 8 of the failure to comply and provide the Network with a copy of the 30-day letter.

Approved by the Network 8 Medical Review Board on October 6, 2016

Approved by the Network 8 Board of Directors on February 2, 2017
