

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

Advocacy

Products/Services: QI

Products/Services: Education

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Since the last issue:

- Please consider joining us! Elections for the Forum Board of Directors will take place this spring. Individuals are currently being identified to fill a vacant Member-at-Large position. Forum members will be formally contacted in mid-May to solicit nominations for these positions, followed by a two-week balloting period where members will have the opportunity to cast their vote.
- The Medical Advisory Council (MAC) convened their Annual Meeting in Chicago on April 11-12, 2014. The three new Toolkits (Patient Centered Care, Home Dialysis Awareness, and Care Transitions) are in various stages of development; anticipated completion is December 2014.
- Strategic planning remains a high priority for the Forum's Board of Directors and Executive Committee. Immediate Action Items identified as a means to improve communication between the Forum and the ESRD Networks continue to be reviewed and addressed. A summary of the activities and an update on the progress of this work has been developed. Please contact the [Forum office](#) for more information.
- The Forum's MAC and BAC composed a response to the CMS Quality Strategies document which was submitted on January 10, 2014. While the Forum enthusiastically endorses the CMS strategies, MAC and BAC members provided specific comments and recommendations regarding 1) the inclusion of CKD in the Quality Strategies document, 2) the need for a robust and accessible Health Informatics System and database, 3) the requirement of patient engagement and recognizing barriers to patient engagement in individuals with chronic illness, and 4) the importance of effective communication and coordination of care.
- On February 25, 2014, the Forum submitted a response to CMS concerning the OIG Report regarding the ESRD Beneficiary Grievance Process. The Forum's Executive Committee discussed the response with Ms. Moody-Williams during the CMS/Forum Leadership call on March 10, 2014.
- Ongoing regular calls between Forum and CMS leadership continue to provide an opportunity to collaborate on a wide range of issues of importance to the Network leadership and staff along with the physicians and patients as represented by the MAC and BAC. Recent agenda items include a review and discussion of the OIG Report regarding the ESRD Beneficiary Grievance Process and the proposed 2-Midnight Rule regarding hospital admissions.
- The Forum's Board of Directors met on January 24-26, 2014. Prior to the Board Meeting, the Network Executive Directors met to identify priorities issues affecting the Networks and discuss action items regarding these topics. A summary Power Point presentation of the Board meeting has been prepared and was distributed to Network Executive Directors.

Forum Board of Director's Meeting: July 18-20, 2014 in San Francisco, CA

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SPOTLIGHT: 4th Annual *Creating A Culture of Quality* Conference

Achieving Quality: Reconciling Competing Goals

Guidelines, Incentives, Patient Centered Care, Shared Decision Making...

How do we judge quality?

The 4th Annual *Creating a Culture of Quality* Conference will be held at the Baltimore Marriott Inner Harbor at Camden Yards Hotel on March 23-24, 2015 immediately following the RPA Annual Meeting. This conference is organized by the Forum in partnership with DaVita, DCI, Fresenius, RPA, NRAA, ANNA, and AAKP. Again this year, a Poster Session will follow the Monday educational sessions and provide an opportunity to share best practices with the renal community. A "Save the Date" notice will be sent to the ESRD community in early May.

Patients Serving Patients:

- Comments from BAC members and Network Patient Advisory Council members were sought and included in the Forum's response to the CMS Quality Strategies Goals document and the response to the OIG Report regarding ESRD Beneficiary Grievance Process.
- A committee has been established to begin the development of the Grievance Toolkit. Chapters are being developed by the volunteers on the committee. A survey will be sent to Network Patient Service Directors (PSD) to determine the types of resources currently available at the Network level.

Community Engagement:

On January 30, 2014, a coalition led by members of the Forum (Dr. Diamond) and NRAA, also including representatives from AAKP, DaVita, DCI, Dialysis Patient Citizens, FMC and RPA, met with members of the Office of the National Coordinator (ONC) to continue the discussion of HIT/HIE infrastructure in support of oversight of the ESRD and CKD programs, and how to fill the gap between the current state and the evolving national HIT/HIE infrastructure. Members of the coalition have developed a set of Principles and an Asks document which were presented to ONC.

Forum Representatives in the Renal Community

Forum representatives serve on the following committees:

- Coalition for Supportive Care for Kidney Patients (Dr. Diamond);
- KCQA (Dr. Molony);
- National Quality Forum (Dr. Louis Diamond);
- USRDS External Expert Committee (Dr. Meyer);
- National Kidney Disease Education Program Coordinating Council (Drs. Latos & Goldman);
- UNOS/OPTN (Ms. Carlson);
- Board of the American Association of Kidney Patients (Dr. Goldman, Jenny Kitsen); and the
- Renal Physicians Association (Drs. Schmidt and Perlmutter).

Thank you for engaging with us in pursuit of quality care for patients!