

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

Since the last issue:

- **2015 Elections Results:** The following individuals were elected to 2-year terms for the noted positions - Donald Molony, MD, President-Elect; Darlene Rodgers, BSN, RN, CNN, CPHQ, Treasurer; and Ralph Atkinson, MD, & Demetra Denmon, MA-WSD, Members-at-Large. Jerry Fuller, MSW, LCSW was invited by the Executive Committee to complete the second year of a 2-year Member-at-Large term vacated by Chris Brown, BS, upon his appointment to EDAC Chair.

The Forum would like to give special recognition to Andy Howard and Cindy Kristensen for their leadership as President (2 1/2 years) and Past-President (4 years) respectively. Thank you for your dedicated service!

- The **Annual Forum Membership Webinar** convened on June 22, 2015. Participants included 29 members and 4 KPAC (Kidney Patient Advisory Council) patient representatives. The slide presentation is available for download on the [Forum website](#) or you may request a copy from Dee at the [Forum office](#).
- Ongoing **regular calls between Forum and CMS leadership** continue to provide an opportunity to discuss a wide range of issues important to the Networks. Recent conference calls have included discussions on ESRD Network Program Funding, current and future TEP (Technical Expert Panel) opportunities for Forum KPAC members, reorganization of CMS Groups and staff, Network access to the Virtual Data Research Center, Network AVF rates related to Network QI projects, and the migration to ICD-10 codes. CMS acknowledged the Forum's role and request as a key catalyst for the convening of the ICD-10 Open Door Forum on July 15th.
- The Forum's Board of Directors convened their **Annual Summer Board of Directors meeting** on August 14-16, 2015, in Baltimore, MD. The President's Message power point presentation and minutes are available for your review. Contact the [Forum office](#) for more information.
- The Beneficiary Advisory Council (BAC) has voted to change their name to the **Kidney Patient Advisory Council (KPAC)** to better reflect its memberships identity and in an effort to draw more attention to the group's activities.
- **Two new MAC Toolkits** are currently under Peer Review by Forum members. The Care Transitions Toolkit and the toolkit to increase Home Dialysis programs will be presented to the Forum Board for approval after the Peer Review process is complete. The Forum expects to release these toolkits by the end of the year 2015.
- **Medical Director Toolkits** to be shared at the 9th International Congress of the International Society for Hemodialysis (ISHD) on September 14, 2015 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. A request to print and share copies of the Medical Director Toolkit was received by the Forum office in August; it is anticipated a copy of the Toolkit will be provided to each attendee of this conference.
- **Forum KPAC representatives** have been chosen to participate in the Vascular Access TEP and 5 Star Rating TEP as well as the most recent "ESRD Evaluation of Potential Prevalent Comorbidity Adjustments in the SHR and SMR" TEP. The Forum proudly acknowledges the dedication and passion of these individuals and congratulates them on this opportunity to share their experiences and expertise.
- The **Forum submitted to CMS formal comments** on the proposed changes to the ESRD Prospective Payment System CY 2016 and Quality Incentive Program PY 2017-2018. (August 25, 2015)
- The **Forum voted** on the 25 NQF-Endorsed Renal Measures. (September 1, 2015)

Forum Board of Director's Meeting: February 19-21, 2016 — Location TBD

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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