

PRESS RELEASE

ESRD Networks Celebrate 40 Years

[Birchwood WI; July 18, 2017]

The Board of Directors of the National Forum of ESRD Networks, an association of 18 quality improvement organizations, met in Baltimore, MD on February 10, 2018, in a session devoted to strategic planning. While the Board normally has a winter meeting, participants celebrated the approaching 40th anniversary of the law creating the ESRD Network Program and reviewed recent accomplishments and planned new initiatives. The Board highlighted the work of its Kidney Patient Advisory Council (KPAC) in elevating the voice of the transplant and dialysis patient, working with multiple other organizations such as technical expert panels, CDC Making Dialysis Safer and the Kidney Health Initiative. As another example of past success, the KPAC worked with others in the Forum to produce the acclaimed Dialysis Patient Grievance Toolkit.

The Forum was able to showcase some of its members' achievements at the CMS sponsored Quality Conference which followed the Forum meeting on February 12-14. Board directors presented on a variety of subjects.

In updating its strategic vision, the Forum Board is preparing for a future in which the Quality Improvement Organizations' (QIO) opportunities to impact transplant and CKD may be greater and it has committed the organization to exploring those opportunities. Another area that the Forum will engage in is the alignment of patient preferences with quality measures. And the Forum has committed to a communications strategy that more widely presents the work its volunteers produce. Interested parties can learn more about the activities of the Forum by visiting esrdnetworks.org.

The National Forum of ESRD Networks is a not-for-profit organization that advocates on behalf of its membership and coordinates projects and activities of mutual interest to ESRD Networks. All 18 Networks are members of the Forum which facilitates the flow of information and advances a national quality agenda with CMS and other renal organizations.

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