



August 2024 E-Newsletter from Network 11

Consumer Committee Member Chef Oliver Hale Honored



On July 24th our very own “Chef O” was given the *Presidential Lifetime Achievement Award* in Grand Rapids, MI. He has spent more than 4,000 hours volunteering for six organizations: Meals on Wheels Western Michigan, Brookside Christian Reformed Church, God’s Kitchen, Festival of the Arts, Kidney Foundation of Northwest Ohio and WKTV. He said it was a kidney transplant that inspired him to volunteer. He is highly valued member of our Consumer Committee team and multi-medal winner in the Transplant Games including this year’s events in Alabama. Full news story can be found here: <https://www.woodtv.com/news/grand-rapids/grand-rapids-chef-o-receives-presidential-award-for-4k-hours-volunteered>

Rise in COVID cases and National Immunization Awareness Month

COVID cases are on the rise to a 52-week high after a major trend down since the start of the year. We encourage you to speak to your teams and patients regarding COVID vaccination. For questions and resources please reach out to our QI Project Director: claire.taylor-schiller@midwestkidneynetwork.org

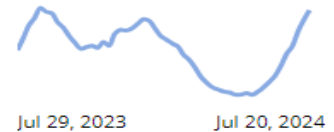
August is National Immunization Awareness Month (NIAM)! This is an annual observance held to highlight the importance of vaccination for people of all ages. Together, we can help raise awareness about the importance of vaccination and encourage people to talk to a health care provider they trust about staying up to date on their vaccinations.

Test Positivity >

% Test Positivity

14.3%

Week ending July 20, 2024
Previous week 13%



Respiratory Virus Season Webinar – Tue Aug 6th

Respiratory Virus Season
Prepare your Clinics and Patients

Tuesday, August 6
11:00a CT | 12:00p ET

bit.ly/RespiratoryVirusSeason

Do you have questions about what to expect this coming respiratory virus season or are looking for the latest information and resources to help you prepare? Join CDC Director Dr. Mandy Cohen, CDC’s Dr. Demetre Daskalakis and Dr. Manisha Patel, and AMA’s President, Dr. Bruce A. Scott, on **Tuesday, August 6, at 11 a.m. ET | 12 p.m. ET** to discuss vaccinations, treatments, and essential tools to help keep everyone safer from flu, COVID-19, and RSV this respiratory virus season. **Register and submit your questions in advance!** <https://bit.ly/RespiratoryVirusSeason>

Involuntary Discharges (IVDs)

Midwest Kidney Network (ESRD Network 11) continues to actively seek ways to help understand, and if possible, reduce the incidence of Involuntary Patient Discharges, particularly for the reason of nonadherence to treatment. Network 11’s Medical Review Committee (MRC) and Board of Directors continue to discuss this issue and want to reaffirm our expectations of ESRD providers in this 5-state region. Please contact us with serious concerns about a patient involving treatment nonadherence, verbal abuse, verbal threats, physical threats, physical abuse, or other behavioral issues that are disruptive to the dialysis facility environment. It is at this early stage that we can provide you with guidance and suggestions to hopefully resolve the conflict and prevent any escalation that could lead to patient discharge. The Network 11 MRC supports the findings of the Decreasing Dialysis Patient-Provider Conflict (DPC) Ethical, Legal, and Regulatory subcommittee that found that discharging a patient solely for the reason of treatment nonadherence is an unethical practice. Please go to the [IVD portion of our website](#) or e-mail Renae Nelson at renae.nelson@midwestkidneynetwork.org for more info.





2024 NPFE-LAN Patient Summit-September 24 & 25

In partnership with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid (CMS), the End Stage Renal Disease National Coordinating Center (ESRD NCC) invites you to join us for the 2024 National Patient and Family Engagement-Learning and Action Network (NPFE-LAN) Summit. Healthcare professionals can earn up to **7 Continuing Education Credits**.

Agenda and Registration Links

September 24, 2024

Noon–5:00 p.m. ET

- Insurance 101
- Care Partner Tips
- Mental Health
- Health Equity

[Register for Day 1](#)

September 25, 2024

Noon-4:00 p.m. ET

- Nutrition and Diet
- Home Therapies and Body Images
- Transplant

[Register for Day 2](#)



Dialysis Patient Citizens Education Center – Live on Instagram!

The DPC Education Center’s Healthcare Consultant, Dr. Scantlebury, is going live on Instagram! Come with your kidney questions and get answers from our expert. We hope to see you there!! Join us **Wednesday,**

August 7th at 12:30pm EST

Follow [@patientcitizens](#) on Instagram to be notified at the start of our live session.



The Importance of Timely New Patient Labs

- **Quality of Care:** Drawing, reviewing and reporting timely lab work for patients every month will ensure optimal Quality of Care for patients and ensure rapid follow-up for medication adjustment or medical assessment. (e.g. including but not limited to anemia management, phosphorus control and adequacy).
- **Medicare Eligibility:** Timely lab work also impacts a patient’s eligibility for Medicare benefits. The CMS-2728 must include a Serum Creatinine value within 45 days prior to first dialysis treatment or kidney transplant. CMS-2728 cannot be submitted through EQRS without this data element.

“21d. Enter the serum creatinine value (mg/dl) and date test was taken. THIS FIELD MUST BE COMPLETED. Value must be within 45 days prior to first dialysis treatment or kidney transplant. If a dialysis facility is unable to obtain the laboratory values from the appropriate care setting within 30 days, the dialysis facility may use admission laboratory values drawn prior to initiating the first treatment at the facility.”

- **ESRD Quality Incentive Program (QIP):** The ESRD QIP scores facility performance for each payment year measure using data from reimbursement claims, ESRD Quality Reporting System (EQRS) and the CDC NHSN. If labs are not drawn in a timely manner, this may negatively impact a facility’s QIP score.
- **ESRD Core Survey:** One of the reports Surveyors request during a visit may be “... a list of all patients’ individual laboratory results for hemoglobin, Kt/V, uncorrected calcium, phosphorus and albumin for the current 3 months, separated by modality.”

