

Please review and share the resources below with your team. These resources are provided to help support the current quality improvement activities and the CMS goals we are working toward this year, as well as, to improve the overall quality of care provided to your patients. Additional information and resources are available on the Midwest Kidney Network website under the Provider tab.

<https://www.midwestkidneynetwork.org/providers/quality-improvement-projects>

We would appreciate your feedback about these resources and welcome suggestions about the types of resources you would like to receive in the future. Please take a minute to complete this short survey:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MKNEnews>

## COVID-19 Hospitalizations



According to the CDC, there was a 17.6% increase in COVID-19 hospitalizations at the end of November. Data show that the updated bivalent vaccine provides significant additional protection and reduces the risk of severe infection

<https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/71/wr/mm7148e1.htm>

Paxlovid should be offered to eligible persons to protect against COVID-19 hospitalizations, irrespective of vaccination status, and especially among groups with the highest risk for severe outcomes, such as older adults and those with multiple underlying health conditions to reduce the risk of hospitalization. <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/71/wr/mm7148e2.htm>

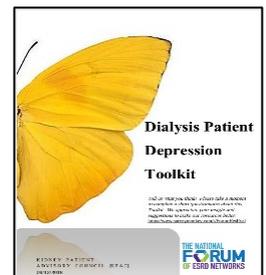
## Depression & Mental Health

**Tip Sheet Depression Resources:** The Midwest Kidney Network Depression Coalition has developed a [Depression Resources Tip Sheet](#) for both dialysis social workers and for patients screened positive for depression to assist them in finding help in dealing with depression.

**Dialysis Patient Citizen (DPC) Support Group by Telephone:** The DPC Support Group is a program that offers real time support and education to chronic kidney disease (CKD) patients at all stages of the illness, as well as support for their family and friends. This program is a telephone group experience with two facilitators: a person living with CKD and a healthcare professional. The group meets on the second Tuesday of the month at 3:00 pm Eastern for one hour, and the next call will be on **December 13th, 2022** at 3:00 pm Eastern.

<https://www.dpcedcenter.org/resources/dpc-support-group/>

**Dialysis Patient Depression Toolkit:** The National Forum of ESRD Networks, including ESRD patients, developed a [Dialysis Patient Depression Toolkit](#). This Toolkit was developed BY patients FOR patients, with important contributions from professionals. The link includes a Dialysis Patient Depression Toolkit in both English and Spanish.



## Equity in Healthcare

A link to the AMA Steps forward was provided to facilities in the Network region, it discusses translating commitment to racial and health equity into action in health care systems.

[Racial and Health Equity: Concrete STEPS for Health Systems | Health Disparities | AMA STEPS Forward | AMA Ed Hub \(ama-assn.org\)](#)

## Home Dialysis

Watch for resources in upcoming newsletters

## Nursing Home: Reducing blood transfusions/anemia management & Reducing infections

The below article is an interesting article regarding anemia management with a focus on older patients. Comparative effectiveness of two anemia management strategies for complex elderly dialysis patients

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3933821/>

## Patient & Family Engagement

Check out this link for resources for your patients from the ESRD National Coordinating Center (NCC) including resources on grievances, infection control mental health, transplant and much more!

<https://www.esrdncc.org/en/patients/>

## Reducing Hospitalizations and Readmissions



**Hospitalization RCA and Intervention:** A focus group of facilities in the Network who have completed a root cause analysis and developed targeted interventions have experienced a 0.508 decrease in their hospitalization rate since August 2022, while the Network overall has had an increased hospitalization rate by 0.159. This indicates that examining what contributes to hospitalizations at your facility and implementing meaningful interventions can be successful in keeping patients out of the hospital. Find more information here:

<https://www.midwestkidneynetwork.org/quality-improvement-projects/reducing-hospitalizations>

**Readmissions:** Look for an invitation in December to join a “Sprint to Reduce Readmissions” starting in January 2023, which will include both dialysis facilities as well as hospitals! As a participating facility, you will have the opportunity to participate in 4 monthly webinars, receive contemporary evidence-based tools and educational resources to identify gaps and opportunities, track progress, engage in in-depth learning, foster dialogue with participating hospitals, and create tactical steps to implement innovations at your facility to reduce readmissions. You will also be invited to collaborate with both hospitals and other dialysis facilities in a private group on the social networking site Superior Health Connect. This is an exciting opportunity to engage with colleagues and work collaboratively with the inpatient side of health systems. Watch your inbox in the coming week for your invitation!

## Transplants & Waitlisting

NIH National Library of Science article on Peer Mentoring as an Avenue to Explore Kidney Transplantation. This article looks at the need for a kidney transplant recipient (KTR) peer mentoring program to address topics such as cardiovascular disease, social and psychological challenges associated with kidney transplantation.

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC8183856/>

## Vaccinations: COVID-19, Pneumonia, Influenza

Track and share your vaccine progress in your facility lobby or patient communication board! Shared with permission from our colleagues at Network 5 – [Flu Vaccine Goal Poster](#)

## Data Quality (CMS 2728 & 2746 Forms, EQRS Admissions)



**Attention Transplant Providers: EQRS access is coming to you soon!** Across the country, transplant providers are expected to begin utilizing and managing transplant patients in EQRS beginning January 2023. The EQRS database will offer many new benefits for transplant patient data management. Midwest Kidney Network will offer training opportunities in early January – stay tuned for dates.



**EQRS Help for the Holidays:** Midwest Kidney Network would like to extend a helping hand to all dialysis staff this holiday season. We know this can be an especially busy time of year and would like to offer support to your facility with EQRS task completion. EQRS tasks include submitting CMS 2728 & 2746 forms (*must be fully complete*), admitting patients, and resolving System Discharges. If you or your facility staff need EQRS support, please reach us directly: Alli at 651-644-2911 or Aletha at 651-644-9877 ext. 104.