

June 2023 E-Newsletter from Network 11

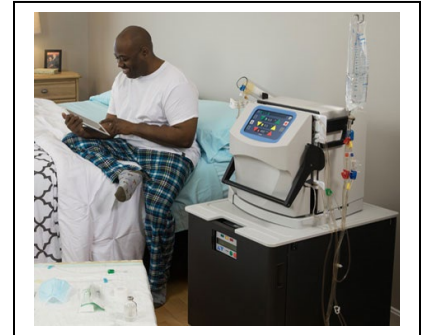
Network 11 Support

Midwest Kidney Network’s purpose is to support YOU the field personnel. We get excited when facilities reach out to us with questions and requests for help! We have a staff of dialysis experienced RNs, SWs, Administrators, PCTs, etc. specifically for the purpose of supporting you and your teams. We also have staff with decades of experience in EQRS, QIP, HARP, transplant, home dialysis, etc. that are willing and able to help you. Please reach out to us!

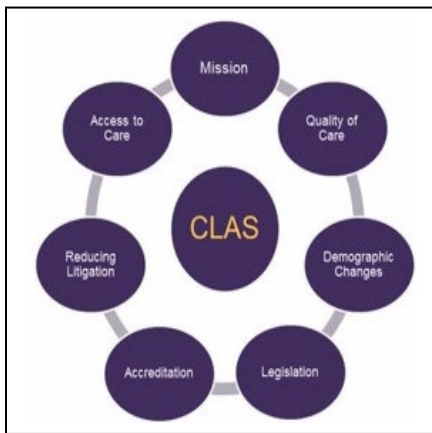
Expansion of Dialysis in Skilled Nursing Facilities

The Midwest Kidney Network (MKN) region has a variety of providers who are providing dialysis services to patients who reside in a skilled nursing facility (SNF) setting. This is a great opportunity for patients to receive dialysis where they reside, reducing the hours spent commuting to an outpatient unit and having to go out in severe weather conditions. It also provides continuity of care for patients with the dialysis team working closely with the SNF staff to provide optimal care for each patient. The MKN is pleased to see an expansion of these services in many of our states and work closely with providers on many quality-of-care topics.

As a dialysis provider, please let us know if you are providing dialysis services (treatments) to patients in a SNF. If you are providing dialysis services in a SNF, please send MKN the contact information for the staff member so we can share MKN resources and project information (you can email this information to candace.kohls@midwestkidneynetwork.org). Please contact your state if you have questions on updating the CMS 3427 form (ESRD Application and Survey and Certification report).



Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services (CLAS)



Starting this year, you will hear more about CLAS and how to incorporate these standards into your facility services. We at MKN are in the middle of assessing facility’s knowledge of CLAS and resources currently being used at the facility level. Our initial feedback is showing that it is not something most are familiar with and is an opportunity for us to provide education and resources. Paired with Health Equity, CLAS “is a way to improve the quality of services provided to all individuals, which will ultimately help reduce health disparities” per the HHS.gov website.

In the past we have provided ‘technical assistance’ to facilities in 8 specific clinical quality improvement areas as defined in our CMS Scope of Work. This year, CMS added **CLAS and Health Equity** to our scope of work. When the assessment is complete, we will be providing additional tools and resources specific to CLAS and health equity but please reach out to us if you have any questions on these topics. Please see our website for CLAS and health equity [resources and tools](#) currently available.

MKN Website and Resources

We recently updated some of the [QI pages on our website](#) and will continue to do that in the near future. For every topic in our Quality Improvement Projects, we have a specific MKN staff member who is responsible for metrics, reaching out to struggling facilities, reporting to our group on performance, and identifying areas of opportunity for improvement. We are a resource for your benefit and we have the tools, forms, knowledge, and committed staff to provide you the highest level of support!

