



## October 2024 E-Newsletter from Network 11

### Stories from 'the Road'!!

We want to highlight amazing things we come across in our travels visiting dialysis facilities. This is one of those. *"My name is Sarah, and I am a survivor. At the very beginning of the pandemic, I was an ICU nurse who unfortunately caught COVID at its worst time. I was in a coma for 2 months and on a ventilator. When I woke up my whole world had changed. I had a stroke, a heart attack, and my kidneys failed. I am very lucky and blessed to be alive. I spent 7 months in the hospital learning to walk and talk, basically starting over. I strive to become a Nurse again and today that's what I am. I am a proud Dialysis patient who is also a Dialysis Nurse."* Way to go Sarah!!



### Revised CMS 2728 & 2746 Forms Go Live in EQRS Oct 1<sup>st</sup>



Revised CMS 2728 and 2746 forms have been released in EQRS as of Tuesday, October 1<sup>st</sup>. There have been significant changes to both forms, review [CMS 2728 changes here](#) and [CMS 2746 changes here](#). If you have not already, please [view the recorded training](#) for the revised CMS forms. **Reminder, the CMS 2728 form is due within 45 days of the patient's start date and the CMS 2746 form is due within 14 days of the patient's date of death.** If you need assistance with or have questions about the revised CMS forms or EQRS, please reach Alli at (651) 644-2911 or Aletha at (651) 644-5839.

### Facility Address Changes/Relocations

Facility address changes/relocations are required be reported to both your State Survey Agency and to us at Midwest Kidney Network. Please report the relocation prior to the actual move, so that EQRS and other QIP-related reporting databases can be updated accordingly. For Michigan facilities, please contact [aletha.duncan@midwestkidneynetwork.org](mailto:aletha.duncan@midwestkidneynetwork.org). For MN, ND, SD, and WI facilities, please contact [alli.bailey@midwestkidneynetwork.org](mailto:alli.bailey@midwestkidneynetwork.org).



### FREE At-Home COVID-19 Test Kits

Every US household is eligible to order 4 free at home tests. COVID-19 testing can help you know if you have the illness so you can decide what to do next, like getting treatment to reduce your risk of severe illness and taking steps to lower your chances of spreading the virus to others. Your order of COVID tests is completely free- you won't even pay for shipping. They will start shipping tests the week of September 30th. Link is here: <https://aspr.hhs.gov/covid-19/test/Pages/default.aspx> or call (800)232-0233.

### 1 FREE CEU - Nov 7<sup>th</sup> FREE LAN Hospitalization Call



Daniel Landry, DO, FASN

The End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) National Coordinating Center (NCC) invites you to join us for a webinar titled: *"Creating Successful Transitions: for Reducing Hospitalization, Readmissions, and ER visits"*. Dr Landry will discuss ways to implement successful transition of care for patients post hospitalization. One CEU will be provided to RNs, SWs, and RDs who attend this meeting. Registration link here:

<https://hsagonline.webex.com/weblink/register/1f6fb21e16e6fa236284a739d7fc453b9>

### Mental Health Awareness Resources



*Mental Health Awareness Month* isn't until May, but Mental Health is a year-round issue. In our area of the Midwest, mental health issues related to isolation and depression tend to increase this time of year with Winter approaching and the holiday season. At MKN, we have a Team of people and a webpage with dedicated resources to support your [patients](#) and their [caregivers](#).

### ATW Health Solutions National CLAS Standards Guidance Webinar Series – Oct 17<sup>th</sup>

Superior Health Quality Alliance's Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services (CLAS) implementation team is partnering with ATW Health Solutions, Inc. for a four-part webinar series that offers guidance for healthcare organizations to implement the National CLAS Standards. Participants are also provided coaching after sessions (Oct 24<sup>th</sup>). Each webinar is separate from the others, so you need not attend the other three to participate in the final one. Session 4 - **Developing a Plan to Lead and Support the Implementation of CLAS Standards** learning objectives:

**Culturally &  
Linguistically  
Appropriate  
Services**



- Summarize Theme 1 of the National CLAS Standards.
- Identify and engage a champion(s) to implement and monitor activities that support CLAS Standards.
- Create CLAS implementation plan.
- Describe a training plan that supports the implementation of CLAS Standards.

Registration link here: [https://superiorhealthqa.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_X3uhHuiRTsi41jiZzB8OZQ#/registration](https://superiorhealthqa.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_X3uhHuiRTsi41jiZzB8OZQ#/registration)

### NEW- Health Equity Attestation



Facility commitment to health equity is a new measure in the ESRD Quality Incentive Program for Payment Year 2026. This reporting measure is based on the attestation submitted in EQRS. There are a total of 10 points possible divided into five domains worth 2 points each. Facilities must attest "yes" to all the activities within a domain to get the 2 points. The 2024 attestation is due **March 3, 2025, at 11:59 PM PT**. Facilities who are part of a large dialysis organization should watch for guidance from their corporate offices. For more information about this and other QIP measures, please review the [CY 2024 Technical Measure Specifications](#).

### FREE Health Equity Webinar – Tues, Oct 29<sup>th</sup>

This informative Health Equity Learning and Action Network (LAN) webinar event will describe social risk factors and their impacts on health disparities, explore quality improvement strategies to advance person-centered care, and identify key considerations to embed an equity lens into clinical work in the kidney community. **Registration link:** [Click here](#)

