

# ESRD NETWORK 13

Serving Arkansas, Louisiana & Oklahoma Renal Communities



July 24, 2009

TO: Medical Directors, Dialysis Facilities  
Administrators, Dialysis Facilities

FROM: Sandra Woodruff, Executive Director [405.948.2248] or [swoodruff@nw13.esrd.net](mailto:swoodruff@nw13.esrd.net)

SUBJECT: 2009 Dialysis Facility Report [DFR]

## Purpose of the 2009 Dialysis Facility Report

1. To notify you of your facility's updated quality measures that will be posted on the Dialysis Facility Compare (DFC) website in November 2009 and to provide instructions for submitting comments to CMS about your DFC measures. See pages 1 and 2 of the Report. Your comments will **not** be posted on the DFC website.
2. To notify you that your 2009 Dialysis Facility Report will be sent to your State Survey Agency (SSA) in September 2009 for the State's use in survey activities and to provide instructions for submitting comments about your entire report. Your comments will be appended to your Report before it is sent to your SSA.

This data could be useful in quality improvement activities. It facilitates comparisons of patient characteristics, treatment patterns, transplantation rates, hospitalization rates and mortality rates to local and national averages.

**Please note: User accounts (email address and passwords) are needed to access the DFRs online and the comment submission portion of the [www.DialysisReports.org](http://www.DialysisReports.org). All user accounts created last year remain in effect. Returning users who have forgotten passwords may enter a username (email address) and click on "FORGOT PASSWORD" to reset a password.**

To add new user accounts, master credentials are required. Each facility and Network was issued a set of master credentials (username and password) in 2008. Reminders of these credentials, and credentials for new facilities, are included on the first page of the 2009 DFR (for facilities). The facility list on the 2009 DFR Network CD will also include this information.

**The deadline for submitting comments is September 8.** This will be the only mechanism for submitting comments. Comments on your Dialysis Facility Compare website quality measures will not be posted on the Dialysis Facility Compare website. Comments for the SSA's will be appended to your report prior to sending the report to the SSA.

If any of your facility characteristic information on the Dialysis Facility Compare website is incorrect, please submit corrections for these items to the Network office at any time. If you have other questions about these reports, please contact me at 405.948.2248 or [swoodruff@nw13.esrd.net](mailto:swoodruff@nw13.esrd.net)

This Report was conducted by the University of Michigan Kidney Epidemiology and Cost Center (UM-KECC) under contract to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). The Report is based on data from Medicare dialysis and hospitalization claims, Medical Evidence Forms (CMS-2728), Death Notification Forms (CMS-2746), Annual Facility Survey Reports (CMS-2744), other CMS data and Social Security Administration data.

A link to a more detailed Guide to the Dialysis Facility Report provided by UM-KECC can be found on the Network 13 website at [www.network13.org](http://www.network13.org). Just click on the Special Information Tab on the Left, then on "12. Link to *Guide to the Dialysis Facility Report*".

Enclosure

**Please remember to fax the enclosed VERIFICATION OF RECEIPT to the Network office to prevent further email or other correspondence from the Network on this subject.**

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*Mission Statement: "To assess and improve the quality of care provided to individuals with End Stage Renal Disease."*