

# ESRD NETWORK 13

Serving Arkansas, Louisiana & Oklahoma Renal Communities



## NEPHROLOGIST AS DIALYSIS FACILITY MEDICAL DIRECTOR

ESRD Network 13 offers the following directives:

1. That the complex duties and responsibilities of the Medical Director of a dialysis unit mandate the training and background inherent in the education of a physician;
2. That there is support of existing CMS personnel requirements of the Medical Director as “a physician who has completed a board approved training program in nephrology and has at least 12 months experience providing care to patients receiving dialysis”; (CfC Personnel Qualifications - §494.140)
3. That the Medical Director must supervise and be responsible for dialysis unit policies and procedures (inclusive of infection control, involuntary discharges), which address the overall medical, technical, and administrative functions of the dialysis unit;
4. That the Medical Director supervise and be responsible for facility’s compliance with and/or adherence to Network standards and recommendations;
5. That the Medical Director provide leadership and be an active participant in dialysis unit quality improvement activities;
6. That the Medical Director provides the leadership within the interdisciplinary dialysis care team to ensure that required assessments are performed and individualized patient plans of care are developed, implemented, and revised, if not achieved; and
7. That to accomplish these duties, the Medical Director should be physically present at the facility **monthly, at a minimum.**

**EVALUATION:** The MRB requires the Network staff to evaluate for compliance with established standards. In conjunction with the Network’s ongoing QI activities, all facility-specific QI plans submitted to the Network office will be reviewed for documentation of medical direction participation.

### REFERENCES:

1. RPA/ASN Position Papers, April 26, 1996: (1) The Nephrologist as Dialysis Facility Medical Director and (2) The Role of Non-Physician Medical Personnel in Delivering Nephrologic Care.
2. Federal Register / Volume 73, Number 73 / Tuesday, April 15, 2008. [Conditions for Coverage (CfC)]

Implemented as Recommendation: 03/97;

Revised: 10/01, 04/24/02, 06/2008, 08/22/08;

Reviewed: 04/30/03, 02/06/04, 02/24/05, 08/18/06, 05/25/07, 02/29/08, 05/15/09, 05/14/10, 05/13/11

Implemented as Standard: 08/22/08

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