

ESRD NETWORK 13



Serving Arkansas, Louisiana & Oklahoma Renal Communities

New Recommendation – ASSESSMENT OF HEALTH-RELATED QUALITY OF LIFE

RECOMMENDATION:

All eligible dialysis patients will have documentation of completion of the Kidney Disease Quality of Life (KDQOL)-36™ annually.

CRITERIA:

There will be 100% documentation in the individualized patients' assessments and/or care plans of all ESRD patients' as to:

- Completion of the KDQOL-36™
- Documentation of KDQOL results assessment with the patient
- Analysis of KDQOL results to determine CQI activities to improve outcomes on the physical and mental scale facility mean score

RATIONALE: The KDQOL-36™ is a standardized assessment tool to assess the burden of kidney disease for the patient. The results indicate the impact of kidney disease on both the physical and mental functioning of the patient. Score results have been indicators of increased hospitalizations and poorer outcomes for patients. The analysis of the scores from the KDQOL-36™ will enable the care team to identify potential problem areas impacting the patient's ability to function at the highest attainable quality of life level and will assist in the development of care team interventions to minimize the impact of these problem areas.

Administration of the KDQOL-36™ to all in-center hemodialysis patients has been included in the CMS Phase III ESRD Clinical Performance Measures in effect April 1, 2008. With the upcoming release of CROWNWeb 1.0 in February 2009, all CPM's will have outcomes being calculated at the facility level and aggregated at the ESRD Network and National levels. It should be noted that CROWNWeb does not currently have a mechanism in version 1.0 to collect and analyze adherence to the KDQOL-36™ CPM. However, CMS has the authority to direct the Network to collect this data directly from the facilities at any time. Upon institution of an evaluation mechanism through CROWNWeb, this recommendation will be reassessed for transition to a Network Standard.

REFERENCE:

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Phase III ESRD Clinical Performance Measures in effect April 1, 2008. Assessment of Health-related Quality of Life (Physical & Mental Functioning) – Facility Level
KDQOL Web Site: <http://www.gim.med.ucla.edu/kdqol/page2.html>

DESCRIPTION:

KDQOL-36™

The KDQOL-36™ is a pencil and paper quality of life assessment tool utilized with patient to measure the impact of kidney disease on their lives. The three areas measured are:

- Symptoms/problems
- Effects of kidney disease
- Burden of kidney disease

The results provide a physical score and a mental score that can be utilized to assist in care planning to improve outcomes and lessen the perceived burden of the disease on the patient. Lower scores have been shown to be indicators of increased hospitalizations and poorer outcomes for patients.

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