

ESRD NETWORK 13

Serving Arkansas, Louisiana & Oklahoma Renal Communities



July 25, 2008

TO: Medical Directors, Dialysis Facilities
Administrators, Dialysis Facilities

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

SUBJECT: 2008 Dialysis Facility Report [DFR]

Purpose of the 2008 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 2008 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 2008 Dialysis Facility Report will be sent to your State Survey Agency (SSA) in September 2008 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.
3. These data could be useful in quality improvement and assurance activities. The information contained in this report facilitates comparisons of patient characteristics, treatment patterns, transplantation rates, hospitalization rates, and mortality rates to local and national averages.

Please note: Starting in 2008 the newly updated Dialysis Facility Reports (DFR) secure comments website requires authentication as an authorized user. The credentials for your facility are found immediately following this page. KEEP YOUR AUTHENTICATION INFORMATION CONFIDENTIAL. The deadline for submitting comments is September 7. 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.

Also, 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

This Report was conducted by the University of Michigan Kidney Epidemiology and Cost Center (UM-KECC) with funding from 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. Just click on the Special Information Tab on the Left, then on "12. Link to *Guide to the Dialysis Facility Report*".

Enclosure

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