



# Midwest Kidney Network



## August 2025 E-Newsletter from Network 11

### Network 11 Bi-Annual Contact Update

We ask you to update your information every 6 months, and August is one of those months! Look for an email from us asking if your job roles and clinic affiliation(s) is/are correct. This is our best way to stay in touch with you, and make sure you are receiving the proper communications from your friends at ESRD Network 11! You are always welcome to email [dj.johnson@MidwestKidneyNetwork.org](mailto:dj.johnson@MidwestKidneyNetwork.org) with updates throughout the year too.

### August is National Immunization Awareness Month (NIAM)!!

NIAM is an excellent time to highlight the importance of vaccinations with your patients and their families. As a health care provider, you play an essential role in sharing information about the safety and benefits of vaccination. For more information and patient resources check out [Reliable Sources of Immunization Information](#). We also uploaded a new [Measles MMR Resource](#) to our website which fits perfectly with this theme!



### Getting a Jump Start on the Fall Flu Vaccine



Although we are still enjoying summer, influenza season is on the horizon. Now is the time to take the steps to plan for a successful influenza vaccination campaign this fall. Please check out the [Vaccine Clinic Checklist](#), a step by step guide to preparing for a vaccine day in the dialysis facility. There are many great motivational interviewing resources to start building trust in vaccine conversations with our patients. Additionally, the [Vaccine Talking Points Tip Sheet](#) should be shared with your frontline PCT and nursing staff to arm them with factual information when faced with vaccine myths and misconceptions.

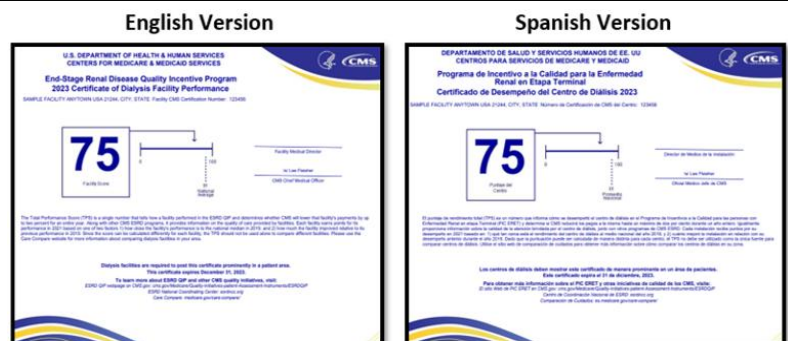
Have a fun theme day planned or a creative bulletin board on vaccination? **Drop us a line or snap a picture and send it to us** at [claire.taylor-schiller@MidwestKidneyNetwork.org](mailto:claire.taylor-schiller@MidwestKidneyNetwork.org)! We love to see the creative work happening in the facilities!

### QIP, DFCC, and DFR Preview Period Ends August 15<sup>th</sup>!!

The preview periods for the ESRD Quality Incentive Program (QIP), Dialysis Facility Care Compare (DFCC), and Dialysis Facility Reports (DFRs) end on Friday, August 15<sup>th</sup>. Please review your facility's reports and submit any comments or questions as soon as possible. Changes cannot be made to the reports after the preview period ends. **Why are these reports important?**

1. The QIP Performance Score Report (PSR) explains the facility's QIP score and payment deduction that will be displayed in the facility during 2026.
2. The DFCC report provides an overview of the information that will be posted publicly on Medicare's Care Compare website.
3. The DFRs and any comments from facilities are provided to state surveyors after the preview period.

There are resources available on how to access the [PSR](#) and [DFCC](#) from EQRS and the [DFR](#) from [www.DialysisData.org](http://www.DialysisData.org).



Checkout out our Events page at <https://www.MidwestKidneyNetwork.org/Events>



### ESRD Prospective Payment System



The ESRD Prospective Payment System (PPS) Proposed Rule for calendar year (CY) 2026 was released on June 30, 2025, and the comment period for the proposed rule ends on **Friday, August 29, 2025**. For more information about the proposed rule, please see a summary of the updates in this [fact sheet](#) and the rule in its entirety on the Office of the *Federal Register* [website](#). If you have questions, please reach out to [kristen.ward@MidwestKidneyNetwork.org](mailto:kristen.ward@MidwestKidneyNetwork.org)

### Benefits of Home Dialysis Webinar for Patients

Do you know a patient who is considering home dialysis? Join [The Forum of ESRD Networks for a FREE 1-hour webinar](#) to learn about the reality of this life-changing treatment. Nephrologist Ramin Sam, MD, will discuss the home dialysis modality. Patients and a care partners with first-hand experience will share valuable information about their personal success and experiences with home dialysis. Learn how to thrive and take charge of your health with home dialysis!



### Annual CMS Quality Conference Highlights Transplant Innovations



Recordings and slides from the recent 2025 CMS Quality Conference, are available on the [CMS Quality Conference website](#). In addition to keynote presentations by the CMS Administrator and several CMS quality leaders, the conference included a 3-part track entitled "Improving the Organ Transplantation System" which provided information about the future of xenotransplantation, transplant education in the care delivery system, and transforming the future of organ transplantation. Please note, to access the recordings, you will need to first register for the conference here: <https://www.cmsqualcon.com/>

### NEW State Health Insurance Resource (SHIP)

The [State Health Insurance Assistance Program](#) (SHIP) is a free resource which provides local, in-depth, and objective insurance counseling and assistance to Medicare-eligible individuals, their families, and caregivers. The website includes a link to a SHIP Locator which will connect users directly to trained counselors in their state.



Navigating Medicare

### The Forum of ESRD Networks KPAC Newsletter



Read It Today! The July issue of [Your Voice, Your Health](#) is now available. This issue features an article from KPAC member Precious McCowan, PhD, about her decision to donate her son's organs. It's a must read! Read this and past issues of Your Voice, Your Health [here](#).

## MDH Project Firstline – NEW Hand Hygiene Education Bundle

The power to stop the spread of germs lies in your hands. The MDH Project Firstline (PFL) team is excited to launch a comprehensive Hand Hygiene Education Bundle designed to support frontline staff with easy access to essential training resources—all in one convenient location. Whether for routine education or in response to specific situations, this bundle offers flexible options to fit any schedule. Resources include short tools for quick refreshers, recorded trainings (20–30 minutes), an interactive module in both English and Spanish, printable materials, an audit tool, and a clinical safety resource.

Support your kidney care team in delivering safe, high-quality care—start using the [MDH Project Firstline Hand Hygiene Education Bundle \(PDF\)](#) today.



**Minnesota Department of Health  
Project Firstline Hand Hygiene Education Bundle**

Hand hygiene is one of the easiest most effective ways to prevent the spread of germs (including those resistant to antibiotics) to patients/clients/resident, health care workers, and the health care environment. Hand hygiene is cleaning hands with soap and water (e.g., soap or with antiseptic), alcohol-based hand sanitizer (ABHS), or surgical hand antiseptics. Performing hand hygiene correctly and at the right time ensures safer care and better health outcomes.

**Resources available:**

- Recorded trainings
- Interactive & multimedia resources
- English & Spanish language resources

**MDH Recorded Trainings**

- 30 Hand Hygiene Recorded Training**  
<https://doh.mn.gov/project-firstline/training/recorded-trainings>
- 30 How Germs Make People Sick Recorded Training**  
<https://doh.mn.gov/project-firstline/training/recorded-trainings>
- 20 What's Wrong With This Picture? Nurses Station Recorded Training**  
<https://doh.mn.gov/project-firstline/training/recorded-trainings>

**CDC Interactive and Multimedia Resources**

- What's Wrong With This Picture? Nurses Station** **15-30**  
<https://doh.mn.gov/project-firstline/training/recorded-trainings>
- 15 Did you Know? Germs Spread Through Touch (YouTube)**  
<https://doh.mn.gov/project-firstline/training/recorded-trainings>

**Print Materials and Other Resources**

- Project Firstline Hand Hygiene Steps (PDF)**  
<https://doh.mn.gov/project-firstline/training/recorded-trainings>
- MDH Infection Control Assessment and Response (ICAR) Hand Hygiene Audit Tool (Excel)**  
<https://doh.mn.gov/project-firstline/training/recorded-trainings>
- CDC Clinical Safety: Hand Hygiene for Healthcare Workers**  
<https://doh.mn.gov/project-firstline/training/recorded-trainings>

**Project Firstline**  
www.health.mn.gov/projectfirstline  
Project Firstline MDH@state.mn.us  
@mnhealth



Website: [MDH Project Firstline \(health.mn.gov/projectfirstline\)](https://www.health.mn.gov/projectfirstline)

PFL mailing list: [Subscribe to MDH Project Firstline Updates](#)

Email: [Project.Firstline.MDH@state.mn.us](mailto:Project.Firstline.MDH@state.mn.us)

Social Media: [Facebook](#) | [X](#) | [LinkedIn](#) | [Instagram](#) | [YouTube](#)