



## CMS 2728 Form Overview and FAQs

To comply with current CMS policy, all Initial CMS 2728 Forms must be submitted in EQRS no later than 45 days following a patient's first treatment.

### What is a CMS 2728 (Chronic Medical Evidence) Form?

- The 2728 form is required by CMS for all ESRD patients pertaining to Medicare entitlement & eligibility and/or for patient registration purposes (*even if a patient is not applying for Medicare benefits*).

### Why is a CMS 2728 Form needed?

- Transplant units may require the 2728 form for a patient to be placed on the kidney transplant waitlist.
- Timely 2728 form submission directly impacts a dialysis facility's QIP (*Quality Incentive Program*) score and potential reimbursement amount.

#### Initial 2728 Forms

- Required for all new ESRD patients within 45 days of their first treatment.
- The 2728 form should NOT be completed for AKI (Acute Kidney Inquiry) patients.

#### Supplemental 2728 Forms

- Required when an initial 2728 has previously been submitted, and:
  - A patient transitions to home dialysis within the first 3 months of initial dialysis, or;
  - A patient has a transplant within the first 3 months of dialysis.

#### Re-entitlement 2728 Forms

- Required when a patient resumes dialysis treatment after Medicare benefits have been terminated, and:
  - A patient restarts dialysis after 1 year or more after having recovered function or discontinued dialysis, or;
  - A patient restarts dialysis after 3 years or more following a transplant, or;
  - A patient has another transplant, 3 years or more following a previous transplant, with no dialysis in between.



## CMS 2728 Form FAQs:

- **Who do I contact if I need to make a change to a submitted 2728 form in EQRS?**
  - If the modification request is made within 5 days of submission, you will contact the **QualityNet Service Center Helpdesk at 1-866-288-8912** to request a modification.
  - If the modification request is made after 5 days of submission, only Field 23 on the 2728 form can be changed, due to the impact on a patient's coverage. All other form changes will not be approved, per CMS policy.
- **What if I need to change the patient's Medicare selection (Field 10) on a submitted 2728 form after the 5-day rule?**
  - If a patient/beneficiary has changed their selection regarding applying for Medicare; the printed 2728 form, Field 10 should be changed and re-certified via physician signature and remarks (Field 50, 51, and 52). Next you will re-send the 2728 form to your local SSA office for processing. No change will occur to the form in EQRS.
  - Please note, even though a patient may already be entitled to general Medicare coverage, the patient can reapply for ESRD Medicare coverage too.
- **What if the patient refuses or is unable to sign the 2728 form?**
  - If a patient is truly unable to sign the 2728 form, it should be signed by a relative, a person assuming responsibility for the patient (POA), or by a survivor.
  - Enter a comment in Remarks (Field 52) as to the why the patient cannot sign.
  - If a patient refuses to sign, please have a conversation with the patient as to why the 2728 form is critically important, the impact it can have on current or future benefits coverage, and transplant waitlist requirements.
- **What if the patient passes away before they can sign the 2728 form?**
  - Enter the patient's date and cause of death in EQRS, this will override the need for a patient signature on the 2728 form.
- **Am I required to complete a 2728 form for patients coming from outside the U.S.?**
  - The patient should be admitted in EQRS. All patients who come from outside the U.S. need a 2728 form. Please enter a comment in Remarks (Field 52) indicating when and where the patient initiated dialysis outside the U.S.
- **How do I print a 2728 form that was submitted in EQRS prior to 2016?**
  - Forms from 2016 or earlier cannot be printed from EQRS. You may print the form using Chrome's print function or contact the patient's initial facility for a copy.
- **Who can select a patient's Primary Cause of Renal Failure (ICD-10 code)?**
  - Primary Cause of Renal Failure should be selected by the patient's attending physician from the current ICD-10 code list.
- **What is the patient's Date Regular Chronic Dialysis Began (DRCDB) if they started dialysis as AKI?**
  - Date Regular Chronic Dialysis Began (DRCDB) is the patient's first ESRD dialysis treatment ever, regardless of location or setting.



- **What if I do not have a Serum Creatinine lab within 45 days prior to the patient's DRCDB?**
  - You may use the labs drawn on the patient's first ESRD treatment (DRCDB).
- **Which 2728 forms are required to be sent to the local SSA Office?**
  - All 2728 form types (initial, supplemental, and re-entitlement) must be sent to the SSA office for benefits processing.
- **What if a 2728 form is not generating in EQRS for a patient who is brand new to dialysis?**
  - Check to see if the patient's admission reason in EQRS is correct (New ESRD or Dialysis after Failed Transplant).
  - If the admission reason is correct, it will populate the correct 2728 form.
  - If it is incorrect, please call Midwest Kidney Network for assistance.
- **Which facility completes an Initial 2728, if the patient transfers out to another facility?**
  - The patient's first outpatient dialysis facility is still responsible for completing the 2728 form, even if the patient has since transferred out.
- **Why should the physician and patient sign the 2728 form with blue ink?**
  - Signatures in blue ink denote an original copy of the 2728 form. Most SSA offices still require the physician and patient signatures to be in blue ink.

**Please contact Midwest Kidney Network with any questions:**

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