

January 2026 E-Newsletter from ESRD Network 11

MKN Immunization Impact Award Winners!



The Midwest Kidney Network team would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all the Facilities that participated in our recent poster contest as part of the immunization impact award project. The creativity, dedication, and passion displayed in each entry were truly inspiring. These posters serve as a powerful tool for patient education and community health, and we deeply appreciate the effort your team has put into promoting the importance of vaccinations. While every entry brought something unique to the table, we are excited to recognize the following facilities for their outstanding work:

1. Trinity SAT – Belcourt Dialysis (ND)
2. Fresenius Big Lake (MN)
3. DaVita Dearborn (MI)



Your work helps bridge the gap between clinical care and patient engagement. Thank you for your continued commitment to the health and safety of the dialysis community. We look forward to seeing your future contributions to our network initiatives!



FREE Back to Basics: One Infection is Too Many Webinar – Jan 27

Midwest Kidney Network (MKN) and the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) Healthcare-Associated Infections (HAI) Section are excited to announce an upcoming virtual webinar on January 27th, *especially for the dialysis setting* - **Back to the basics: One infection is too many!** This virtual webinar will provide a focused review of foundational measures using the chain of infection as a framework to illustrate how pathogens spread and how transmission can be prevented. Participants will also explore strategies for strengthening a culture of safety and accountability, emphasizing the importance of consistent practices, shared responsibility, and open communication among care teams. The session concludes with a patient story that underscores the serious consequences that can occur when infection prevention measures are not followed. Pre-register today: [Back to the Basics: One Infection is Too Many | Meeting-Join | Microsoft Teams](#)



Medical Director Webinar Series



Join the Forum of ESRD Networks for a series of 1-hour webinars on a variety of topics relevant to Nephrology fellows and Medical Directors. The Forum's MAC will be hosting a 9-part webinar series starting February 9th, focused on different areas of the Medical Director Toolkit. All webinars will be recorded and made available for on-demand viewing. Registration is required and is available [here](#).

Recommended Treatment Goals (RTG) for 2026!

Midwest Kidney Network's Medical Review Committee (MRC) annually reviews and updates its recommended treatment goals. In setting these goals, the MRC relies on available evidence and accepted practice guidelines such as those provided by the Kidney Dialysis Outcomes Quality Initiative (K/DOQI). We, Midwest Kidney Network's Medical Review Committee, provide these goals to help dialysis facilities improve patient care and patient outcomes. Facilities can utilize these goals to guide their QAPI goals for the year. Please note that these are intended to align with QIP measures and other evidence-based recommendations but are not a replacement of other regulatory guidance: <https://www.midwestkidneynetwork.org/quality-improvement/recommended-treatment-goals>.





Data Manager EQRS User Specific Items

NEW Data Submission Guide for Dialysis Facilities



MKN has developed a new [Data Submission Guide for Dialysis Facilities](#) that you can reference to keep track of important due dates related to EQRS, NHSN, QIP, etc. It includes data submission deadlines, report preview periods, and ESRD PPS proposed and final rule releases, as well as ongoing data related tasks. We hope this month-by-month guide will help you stay on track with your data deadlines.

MyCROWNWeb.org Migration to EQRS.CMS.gov

Coming soon on January 20, 2026, the [EQRS.CMS.gov](#) website will be updated to include the EQRS and ESRD Quality Incentive Program (QIP) related trainings, events, resources, and news currently available on [MyCROWNWeb.org](#). **The [MyCROWNWeb.org](#) website will be decommissioned on February 13, 2026. Moving forward, the [EQRS.CMS.gov](#) website will serve as the replacement for [MyCROWNWeb.org](#).**



CMS 2744/Annual Facility Surveys for 2025

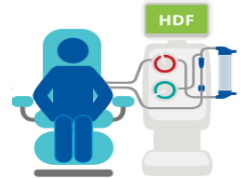


Since we recently rang in a new year, it's time again for the CMS 2744/Annual Facility Survey! **The 2025 CMS 2744 will be due for submission from all dialysis and transplant providers via EQRS to Midwest Kidney Network no later than March 31, 2026.** Please note, some dialysis entities are completing the CMS 2744 for their facilities at the corporate level – if you have questions about your corporation, let us know. MKN will have two CMS 2744 Open Office Hours events in February that you can join to ask your CMS 2744 questions, we hope you join us:

- [February 3, 2026, at 10:00am CT/11:00am ET – register here](#)
- [February 4, 2026, at 1:00pm CT/2:00pm ET – register here](#)

NEW Hemodiafiltration Treatment Modality in EQRS

On January 12, 2026, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) released Hemodiafiltration as a new treatment modality option in the treatments section in EQRS. Hemodiafiltration is an advanced kidney replacement therapy that combines hemodialysis and hemofiltration. It allows the blood to be cleaned more thoroughly and effectively. These [instructions](#) will guide dialysis staff on how to add hemodiafiltration as a treatment modality in patient records in EQRS.



Removal of Health Equity and SDOH from EQRS

Effective December 31, 2025, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is removing the Health Equity attestation and the Social Drivers of Health (SDOH) Patient Screening attestation fields from the End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) Quality Reporting System (EQRS) Patient Registry. The Facility Commitment to Health Equity (FCHE) and two patient SDOH measures are also being removed from the End-Stage Renal Disease Quality Improvement Program (ESRD QIP) starting in calendar year 2025, as finalized in the CY 2026 ESRD PPS Final Rule (see: <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/11/24/2025-20681/medicare-program-end-stage-renal-disease-prospective-payment-system-payment-for-renal-dialysis>).

Facility Specific Reports are Back!!

Both the forms' timeliness and quality improvement activity (QIA) reports are being distributed monthly again. These reports use data from EQRS and Medicare billing to get the facility results. Please note that the results reflect various time frames. For example, 2728 timeliness looks at all 2728s submitted by your facility in the previous 12 months. On the other hand, the hospital admissions measure looks at admissions that occurred since May 1, 2025. The reports will indicate the specific time frame and data source used for each measure. Please reach out to Kristen Ward (kristen.ward@midwestkidneynetwork.org) with questions.

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