



# Midwest Kidney Network

*June 2025 E-Newsletter from Network 11*



## Mental Health Awareness



May was Mental Health Awareness month, but Mental Health needs to be a priority year-round. Kidney transplantation offers patients with end-stage kidney (ESKD) disease freedom from frequent, time consuming, and uncomfortable dialysis treatments. However, successful outcomes are not ensured, and transplant recipients face new challenges, including concerns about transplant rejection and the need to adhere to a complex regimen of immunosuppressive therapy that may generate distressing side effects. Depression is a condition prevalent among patients with ESKD undergoing replacement therapy. It has also been increasingly recognized among kidney transplant recipients. It reduces self-esteem, leads to noncompliance with therapy, and eventually may lead to death. Here is a year old, on demand [webinar](#) that is great resource.

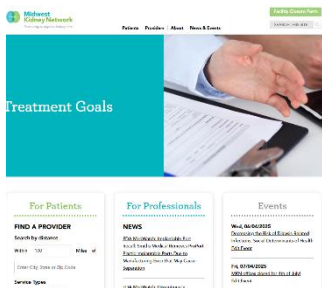
## Project ECHO – Home and Peritoneal Dialysis

The Project ECHO will launch on June 24, 2025, and hold monthly virtual learning sessions through April 2026, featuring high impact curriculum topics and expert faculty presenters. This Project ECHO is designed for all healthcare professionals involved in the care of home dialysis patients and/or the education of patients on dialysis modality selection. Here is the [Project ECHO flyer](#) that details more information about the program. Each participant must complete their own registration through the iECHO platform, a very simple process that can be done by following the link below:

<https://iecho.org/public/program/PRGM1744203505175ASYUXCZDTG>



## NEW! Reporting Emergencies/Dialysis Service Interruptions



In our pursuit of Continuous Improvement and making your working lives easier, we have added a functionality to our website <https://www.midwestkidneynetwork.org/>. As you can see in the picture on the left, on the top (right) of every page, is a new green button that will bring you to a page where you can submit **any instance where you are unable to provide service to your patients for any length of time** including but not limited to: power outages, water room issues, staffing shortages, natural disasters, and snow days. If you have questions or feedback, please send to [DJ.Johnson@MidwestKidneyNetwork.org](mailto:DJ.Johnson@MidwestKidneyNetwork.org).

## Medicare and You Handbook (PDF)

Although the deadline has passed to pre-order the handbook, here is the PDF link to the [Medicare and You Handbook](#). It is the official guide to Medicare and is updated and published each year in time for Medicare Open Enrollment. Unlike previous years, late orders will not be accepted. The Handbook provides information on:

- Medicare benefits, costs, rights, and protections.
- Health and drug plans.
- Answers to common questions.



**Medicare  
& You 2025**  
The official U.S. government  
Medicare handbook



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

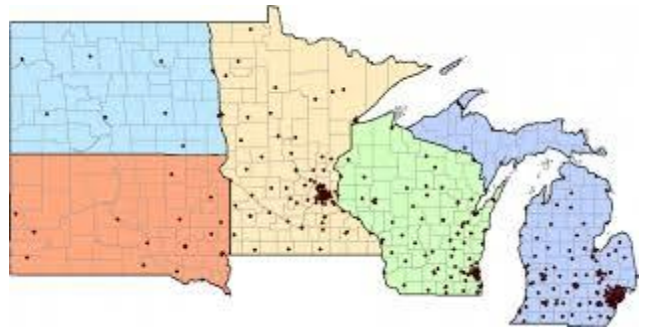
## YOU Should Have EQRS Access Too!!

# EQRS

Using EQRS is not just for Administrative Assistants these days, all Facility Administrators & Clinic Managers should have EQRS access too. Maintaining EQRS access is critical so that you can monitor your facility's CMS form (2728 & 2746) timeliness, review patient vaccination rates, and generate facility-level detailed reports. If you need to obtain EQRS access, start here: [HARP & EQRS Quick Start Guide](#). Please also reference our [EQRS Management for Dialysis Facility Administrators](#) training.

## MKN Monthly State Calls

Reminder! The Network hosts an open office hours check-in call every month for each state in our region. These brief zoom meetings provide the opportunity to hear from Network staff on any pertinent updates or announcements. Additionally, all the facilities on the call can ask questions to the Network and dialogue with other organizations on challenges or best practices. Be sure to add these calls to your calendar and join us in June, we'd love to see more of you there! If you need a new zoom invite, let us know and we'll get one sent to you. The schedule for the calls by region is below:



- Minnesota and Wisconsin: Second Tuesday of every month at 3:00pm central time
- North Dakota and South Dakota: Second Wednesday of every month at 3:00pm central/2:00pm mountain time
- Michigan: Second Thursday of every month at 3:00 pm eastern time/2:00 pm central time

## RHA'S Creating a Life Plan – August 14<sup>th</sup>



Welcome to Creating a Life Plan, your introduction to assisting patients with goal setting. This course equips employees with essential knowledge and skills to help patients recognize unmet life goals and work toward accomplishing things they may not have thought were possible after starting dialysis. Whether you're new to the world of dialysis or seeking to enhance your connections with patients, this training is tailored for you. CE Credit: 1.0, post-webinar survey required. There is also a \$15 fee for Non-RHA members. Registration link: <https://educationstation.renalhealthcare.org/products/creating-a-life-plan>.

## Enhancing Transplant Patient Readiness with Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) Services

**June 18<sup>th</sup> at noon Central Time.** Hosted by the ETCLC Quality Improvement team, this one-hour event is designed to spread best practices and promising initiatives from the ETCLC community.

Presenters: Sarah Price, MSN-ED, Public Health Integration - National Association of Community Health Centers, and Ronald Dwinnells, MD, MBA, CPE Chief Executive Office ONE Health Ohio will share their experience of enhancing transplant patient readiness with federally qualified health center (FQHC) services. **Registration is required for this event:**

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/oDCHZIFgTJOCMLnUWFDMaA>





# Midwest Kidney Network

Partnering to improve kidney care

## MDH – Project Firstline Hepatitis Awareness Resources

Join Minnesota Department of Health Project Firstline as we recognize Hepatitis Awareness Month. Educate your team on what they should do if they see blood, so they can stop the spread of germs and keep themselves and others safe. Explore our recorded training sessions, access interactive scenarios in English and Spanish, and find additional resources on our website: [Project Firstline Training and Resources](https://www.health.state.mn.us/projectfirstline/).

### New [MDH Project Firstline Blood Education Bundle \(PDF\)](#)



Scan Here



The Power To Stop Infections. Together.



### Minnesota Department of Health Project Firstline Blood Education Bundle

Always assume blood is infectious. Those infected with bloodborne pathogens don't always have symptoms, but their blood and some body fluids still have virus in them. The pathogens most concerning for infection risks in health care are HIV, hepatitis B, and hepatitis C. Bloodborne pathogens can be spread when infected blood enters the body. This can happen from a needlestick, through breaks or cracks in the skin, or by splashes or sprays to the eyes, nose, or mouth.

**Resources available:**

- Live & recorded trainings
- Interactive & multimedia resources
- English & Spanish language resources

#### MDH Live and Recorded Trainings

- 20 min** Multi-Dose Vials Part 2: Injection Safety Steps Recorded Training  
<https://www.health.state.mn.us/projectfirstline/training/20min.html>
- 30 min** Fidgeting Felix gets an IV Recorded Training  
<https://www.health.state.mn.us/projectfirstline/training/30min.html>

**MDH Project Firstline Table Talk: Fidgeting Felix (PPT)** **10 min**  
<https://www.health.state.mn.us/projectfirstline/training/10min.html>

#### CDC Interactive and Multimedia Resources

- Fidgeting Felix gets an IV Interactive Scenario** **10 min**  
<https://www.cdc.gov/projectfirstline/interactive/fidgeting-felix.html>
- Blood Micro-Learn (PDF)** **10 min**  
[https://www.cdc.gov/projectfirstline/media/pdf/Blood\\_Micro\\_Learn.pdf](https://www.cdc.gov/projectfirstline/media/pdf/Blood_Micro_Learn.pdf)

- 15 min** Did you Know? Germs Can Live in Blood (YouTube)  
<https://youtu.be/4GVCg252m>

#### Print Materials and Resources

- Germs Can Live in Blood (PDF)** **10 min**  
<https://www.health.state.mn.us/projectfirstline/training/10min.html>
- CDC: Preventing Unsafe Injection Practices**  
<https://www.cdc.gov/infectioncontrol/preventionandcontrol/safety/>
- EPA's Registered Antimicrobial Products Effective Against Bloodborne Pathogens (List S)**  
<https://www.epa.gov/petroleum-registered-antimicrobial-products-effective-against-bloodborne>