



Midwest Kidney Network

March 2026 E-Newsletter from ESRD Network 11

March is National Kidney Month!!



We recognize every March as National Kidney Month, aimed at raising awareness about kidney disease, which affects over 37 million Americans. It emphasizes prevention, early detection, and managing risk factors like diabetes and high blood pressure, as symptoms often appear only in advanced stages. The campaign promotes healthy habits, such as a balanced diet, to maintain kidney function.

MKN Security Incidents with PHI/PII

Due to a recent influx of patient PHI/PII being emailed to us, we are sending out a reminder about contacting us at Midwest Kidney Network/Network 11 with patient information:

1. There are 2 types of information we cannot receive through email, PHI/PII:
 - a. PHI: Protected Health Information
 - i. Examples: Medical records (including CMS 2728 and 2746 forms), a patient's physical or mental health information, billing information, etc.
 - b. PII: Personally Identifiable Information
 - i. Examples: Patient Name, DOB (Date of Birth), SSN (Social Security Number), MBI (Medicare Beneficiary Identifier), etc.
2. **CMS does NOT consider email to be a secure method** for sending patient information or PHI/PII.
3. If you do email patient PHI/PII to Midwest Kidney Network, we are required to report the incident to CMS as an information security violation, and you may be contacted by CMS/CCSQ as follow-up.
4. If you need to contact Midwest Kidney Network about a patient via email, **you may use only the patient's EQRS ID #**. Or you can always give us a call for assistance too, by reaching us at 651-644-9877.



We take protecting patient information very seriously and do our best to give you as many reminders as possible. Thank you for your help in protecting patient information.

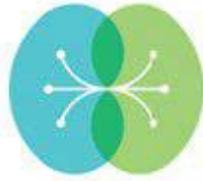
2026 Kidney Care Emergency Response Annual Summit!



The Kidney Community Emergency Response (KCER) Program formally invites you to attend the 2026 KCER Summit at the Hilton Baltimore Inner Harbor in Baltimore, Maryland on March 18, 2026. This year's Summit will be held in conjunction with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Quality Conference. The KCER Summit event brings together stakeholders from the End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) emergency preparedness community, including:

Virtual attendee registration: <https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/2f9d5bc7-3daa-4a5e-95b4-034f09ab9255@669b5f30-544c-45b4-894c-6333fd2a6ceb>

In person registration: <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/ev/reg/u7mg69k>



Midwest Kidney Network

CMS 2744s are Due no Later than March 31st, 2026!!



The CMS 2744 (Annual Facility Survey) is required by CMS to be completed in EQRS by all dialysis facilities and transplant units each calendar year. **The 2025 CMS 2744 is due for submission to the Network no later than March 31, 2026.** If you need help with your CMS 2744, please reach out to us: Alli at (651) 644-2911 or Aletha at (651) 644-5839. Please note, some dialysis organizations are completing the CMS 2744s at the corporate level – if you have questions about your organization’s completion procedure – give us a call.

University of Michigan Explore Transplant March 26th In-Person Event

The University of Michigan Transplant Center is hosting the Explore Transplant and Living Donation Dialysis Provider Training In Person on March 26, 2026 in Ann Arbor, MI.

Target Audience

This educational program is designed for dialysis providers (nephrology nurses, administrators, social workers, dietitians, technicians) who:

- Provide kidney transplant education to patients
- Wish to learn more about transplant as a treatment option for patients

Training Objectives

- To enhance dialysis providers’ transplant and living donation knowledge and experience delivering transplant education to patients
- To assist providers in designing individualized transplant education plans that support the CMS ESRD Conditions for Coverage regarding transplant
- To provide dialysis centers with Explore Transplant and Explore Living Donation resources for patients
- To strengthen relationships between transplant and dialysis centers to facilitate transplantation

Register here: https://UofMI_ExploreTransplant2026.eventbrite.com

Thursday, March 26, 2026 | In-Person Event



This quality improvement initiative is designed to enhance your knowledge and skills in educating patients about transplant and living donation

8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. EST

The Kensington Hotel
3500 S. State St.
Ann Arbor, MI 48108

CE Credits are available

Contact:
Stacy Brand or Michele Cromer at
transplantoutreach@med.umich.edu
or (734) 936-7093



ANNA Michigan Conference March 7th!!



ANNA
American Nephrology
Nurses Association

The Michigan chapter of the American Nephrology Nurses Association is hosting a nephrology conference on **March 7th in Detroit**. Michigan chapter President Nikeya Davis has asked us to invite all nephrology professionals (especially those in Michigan).

Register here via our website: <https://www.midwestkidneynetwork.org/events/michigan-chapter-of-american-nephrology-nurses-association-conference>

MichigANNA #312

Make Sure Your Clinic is Searchable

We invite you to test the provider search function on our website homepage. Click here: <https://www.midwestkidneynetwork.org/> and verify that all your clinic information is correct including address, phone number, and services. Send all corrections to: DJ.Johnson@MidwestKidneyNetwork.org.



Visit our Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/midwestkidneynetwork>



Midwest Kidney Network

MKN Vaccination Quality Improvement

🚩 Final Push: The Midwest Kidney Vaccine Challenge!

We are in the home stretch, team! Our goal is within sight, and the finish line is officially on the horizon. Here is where we stand and why this final push matters more than ever.

📊 The Numbers

We need only **883 more patients** to reach our regional goal!

While the spirit of competition has been a blast, the real "win" isn't a trophy—it's the health of our community. Every single vaccination recorded brings us closer to 100% protection for our most vulnerable patients.

⚠️ Why the Urgency?

Don't let the calendar fool you—**flu season is far from over**. * **Rising Rates:** Data shows flu activity is currently increasing in states neighboring our region.

- **The Goal:** Our primary mission is simple: **Keep patients protected and out of the hospital**. As providers, a proactive conversation today can prevent a crisis tomorrow.

🔧 Action Items for Staff

To ensure we finish strong and accurately, please prioritize the following:

1. **Revisit Conversations:** Check back in with patients who were previously hesitant. A new update on local rising rates might change their mind.
2. **Data Integrity:** Please review all patient records for **accuracy**. Ensure every vaccine administered is documented correctly so every patient is accounted for.
3. **Education:** Remind patients that the vaccine remains the best defense against severe complications and hospitalizations.

"The contest is fun, but patient safety is our standard." Let's give these final 883 patients our best effort. Thank you for your continued dedication to patient care!

