



Midwest Kidney Network



May 2025 E-Newsletter from Network 11

Happy New Year to MKN!!



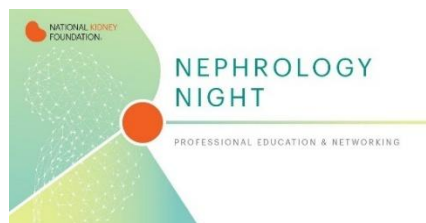
May 1st began our new Option Year at MKN! What does this mean for you? We have sent out an environmental scan [Survey Monkey](#) to gather your feedback on common barriers/obstacles to reaching your goals in critical Quality Improvement areas. There's also an option to tell us if you'd like us to contact you for support, resources, a brief Network 11 introduction, or any other matter you need. This also serves as the yearly reminder that our Team may be reaching out to you to participate in one of our Quality cohorts. **Make sure to engage with your Project Leader!!**

EQRS Data for February Deadline Extended

The April 30, 2025 submission deadline for data supporting **the February 2025 Clinical Month has been extended to May 27, 2025 at 11:59 p.m. Pacific Time**. CMS is extending the April 30, 2025 deadline for the following data submission to the End-Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) Quality Reporting System (EQRS): February 2025 Clinical Data Submissions. Clinical closure dates apply to all Collection Types (Hemodialysis; Peritoneal Dialysis). Additionally, clinical data submissions apply to all submission methods.



NKF Embedded Catheters: Advancement & Outcomes – May 14th



Nephrology Night in Minneapolis, MN: We encourage all to share the invite with the proceduralist placing your PD Catheters. It's a great chance to learn & discuss together embedded PDC placement practices, along with other PDC related topics, including externalization & extended catheter options. Audience: physicians (primary care and all specialties) and advanced practitioners. The lecture and dinner are complimentary, but registration is required. [Register here](#). Questions should be directed to: Roberta.Casado@kidney.org.

EQRS Ideas Portal Now Live!

The EQRS Team recently announced the launch of the **EQRS Idea Portal**, a central place to collect, curate, and promote ideas to help CMS account for your feedback in future software product development. The EQRS Idea Portal allows users to submit their ideas, which can be viewed, up-voted, and commented on by others. Help the EQRS team understand which ideas are important to you by voting and commenting on others' ideas and creating and submitting your own. When you submit, comment, or subscribe to an idea, you'll get a status email when there's any change, comment, or reply to that idea. **To access the Idea Portal**, use the following link: [Idea Program Selection - CCSQ Support Central](#). Please note that you need a HARP account to access the Idea Portal. You can request a HARP account here: [Get A HARP Account](#).



New EQRS Emergency Module!



On April 29, 2025, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) released the new Emergency Module in the End-Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) Quality Reporting System (EQRS). In the event of an EQRS system outage during a disaster, the KCER Program will formally notify ESRD Networks, dialysis facilities, and LDOs via email and by posting an alert on the KCER website. Emergency reporting will transition to the manual ESSR process, which involves submitting data through emailed spreadsheets. This manual, paper-based process will remain in effect until EQRS functionality is restored. If additional assistance is needed to complete and/or submit manual ESSRs in the event of an EQRS system outage, please communicate with your ESRD Network directly.

Blue Ink NOT Needed for 2728s!

We are still hearing from clinics that 2728s are late due to waiting on blue ink physician signatures. Blue ink physician and patient signatures are no longer required on CMS 2728 forms (please note you must still obtain both signatures though). **You can now fax CMS 2728 forms to and from nephrologists for their review and signature.** You DO NOT need to wait for the once-per-month physician rounding day to get a blue ink signature any longer.



Sign Facility & Network Membership Agreements via Our Website!



Reminder to all Facility Administrators, Clinic Managers, Regional Managers, Directors, etc. that you can **sign a new agreement in less than 2 minutes on our website**. As shown in the picture to the left, there is a link to "Create account" (returning users can simply login) in the footer of our website <https://www.midwestkidneynetwork.org/>. You can sign as many agreements as you want, print, and they will be stored in your account in case you need to print them again. It's so easy!! Reminder, this is required for all state surveys. Please reach out to DJ.Johnson@MidwestKidneyNetwork.org if you have questions.

EQRS Social Drivers of Health Patient Screening

The SDOH screening is a new measure in the ESRD Quality Incentive Program for calendar year 2025. Facilities should be screening their patients and ensuring that the screenings are entered into EQRS. Any patient who receives dialysis at the facility at any point during the year will show up in the SDOH screening section of EQRS. If a patient was not screened during the calendar year and the first two drop down menu options don't apply, the last option "No screening was performed, with no reason given" should be selected. However, if the patient passed away within 90 days of admission to the facility, they will be excluded from the calculation for the Quality Incentive Program score.

