



October 2025 E-Newsletter from Network 11

Forum of ESRD Networks Submits Comments on the CMS PPS Proposed Rule



In August, the National Forum of ESRD Networks submitted comments to CMS regarding the CMS-1830-P ESRD PPS Proposed Rule. The comments are available on the [Forum's website](https://media.esrdnetworks.org/documents/ForumComments_PPSProposedRule2026.pdf) and here: https://media.esrdnetworks.org/documents/ForumComments_PPSProposedRule2026.pdf

Kidney Transplant Resources: What You Need to Know

The slides from and recording of the "Kidney Transplant: What You Need to Know" webinar are now available on the Forum website at <https://esrdnetworks.org/education/forum-hosted-educational-webinars/2025-kpac-summer-webinar-series/>.

Additional Transplant resources including a book from our [Consumer Committee](#) member Mary Baliker:

["Is a Kidney Transplant Right for Me?" Toolkit for Patients](#)

[Forum Transplant Toolkit for Providers](#)

[Transplant Evaluation Process Tracker](#)

[Mary Baliker's children's book about kidney transplant: "Maria Never Gives Up"](#)



FREE WEBINAR Thriving in Uncertain Times – October 29th



Feeling anxious? Join our friends at The National Forum of ESRD Networks for a free webinar focused on managing anxiety and stress when life feels overwhelming. Relevant for patients, providers, and care partners alike, Dr. Shilagh Mirgain will provide you with the skills to not only survive in uncertain times but THRIVE. Registration is required at this link: <https://tinyurl.com/DFWebinar2025>

CONTEST – Vaccine Bulletin Board!!

CALLING ALL CREATIVE MINDS! Nothing gives us fulfillment at the Network like seeing your amazing ways of educating and communicating with your patients. Now that Vaccination season has arrived, we want you to send a picture of your bulletin board to Patrick.Shannon@midwestkidneynetwork.org and our very own CMS Representative Kimberly Jones will select a winner!



New CMS 2728 Form Guide for Patients!

Midwest Kidney Network is excited to provide you with our new CMS 2728 educational guide: [CMS 2728 Form Facts for Patients](#). **This guide is meant to be provided to all new ESRD patients either prior to signing their CMS 2728 form or when they are signing.** We purposefully stuck to the facts of why it is important to a patient to have a CMS 2728 form and what they need to know about signing. Please offer this guide to all patients, but especially if you have patients who are refusing the sign their CMS 2728 form, as knowing the facts may help them feel more empowered and educated. If you have questions, reach out to alli.bailey@midwestkidneynetwork.org or aletha.duncan@midwestkidneynetwork.org.



Medicare Open Enrollment Resources

Medicare Open Enrollment begins October 15, 2025, and ends December 7, 2025. During this time, people eligible for Medicare can compare 2026 coverage options on [Medicare.gov](https://www.medicare.gov). [Medicare.gov](https://www.medicare.gov), as well as the [Medicare Plan Finder](#), provides clear, easy-to-use information to allow people to compare options for health and drug coverage, and find the option that best fits their needs. Medicare beneficiaries should review and compare Medicare health and drug plans, especially this year with the new changes on Medicare.gov.



During Open Enrollment, Medicare beneficiaries are encouraged to call 1-800-MEDICARE for help comparing plans and costs. 1-800-MEDICARE is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, to provide help. People who want to keep their current Medicare coverage do not need to re-enroll.

To help with their Medicare costs, low-income seniors and people with disabilities may qualify to receive financial assistance from the Medicare Savings Programs (MSPs). The MSPs help pay Medicare premiums and may also pay Medicare deductibles, coinsurance, and copayments if people meet the conditions of eligibility. Enrolling in an MSP can reduce Medicare costs, helping people better afford other necessities like food, housing, or transportation. Individuals interested in learning more can visit <https://www.medicare.gov/basics/costs/help/medicare-savings-programs>.

In addition, Extra Help is a Medicare program that helps qualifying individuals pay Part D premiums, deductibles, coinsurance, and other costs. Individuals who enroll in MSPs automatically qualify for help affording their prescription drugs through the Extra Help program. To learn more about Extra Help, visit [Medicare.gov/extrahelp](https://www.medicare.gov/extrahelp).

For state-by-state information, important dates, and enrollment resources for Medicare Advantage and Part D in 2026, visit: <https://www.cms.gov/files/document/2026-ma-part-d-landscape-state-state-fact-sheet.pdf>.

Certified Patient Care Technician Resources

There have been some questions about this, so we compiled some resources. Information on the (re-)certification requirements can be found here: <https://www.nncc-exam.org/recertification/ccht> and/or <https://bonent.org/certified-hemodialysis-technologist-technician-cht/>.

The CDC has several courses with free CEUs: <https://www.cdc.gov/dialysis-safety/hcp/training/index.html>. Also, [Renal Healthcare](#) and [American Nephrology Nurses Association](#) both have education. Membership is required for both, but ANNA has individual membership that may be valuable to join as they offer a free CEU every month for their members that are nephrology specific.



Resources for Social Workers!

[Travel Tips for Dialysis Patients](#) – New resource created by Midwest Kidney Network recently uploaded to the website.

Dialysis Patient Citizens (DPC) Events:



October 14 – 2pm EST/1pm CST. Our October guests will be DPC Patient Ambassadors, who will share their stories and what being a part of the kidney community means to them. **To join the call: Dial: 866-230-9002 Enter Meeting Code: 420 835 078#**

October 15 – 4pm EST/3pm CST The DPC Education Center's Healthcare Consultant, Dr. Scantlebury, is going live on Facebook! Come with your kidney questions and get answers from our expert. Follow [Dialysis Patient Citizens](#) on Facebook to join the live session.

MDH Project Firstline

Blood Micro-Learn: What to Do When You See Blood

Join MDH Project Firstline's brief train-the-trainer session designed for those with infection control expertise or who may lead infection prevention and control education. Participants will learn how to utilize micro-learn resources in team huddles, guide practical discussions, and to help staff take steps to stop the spread of germs.

Train to lead. Use the tools. Make an impact.

Same training offered both days — register for the one that fits your schedule.

- Tuesday, Oct. 14, 2025 | 2 - 2:30 p.m. CDT
[Project Firstline Blood Micro-Learn \(10/14\)](#)
- Thursday, Oct. 16, 2025 | 10 - 10:30 a.m. CDT
[Project Firstline Blood Micro-Learn \(10/16\)](#)



View Now: Environmental Cleaning and Disinfection Training Session

Complete the [Project Firstline Training Session: Environmental Cleaning and Disinfection](#) registration form to view the 30-minute recorded training now. After viewing, submit the feedback form to receive proof of attendance.



Website: [MDH Project Firstline \(health.mn.gov/projectfirstline\)](https://health.mn.gov/projectfirstline)

PFL mailing list: [Subscribe to MDH Project Firstline Updates](#)

Email: Project.Firstline.MDH@state.mn.us

Social Media: [Facebook](#) | [X](#) | [LinkedIn](#) | [Instagram](#) | [YouTube](#)