

ESRD NETWORK 2022 ANNUAL REPORT

This report will cover quality improvement efforts led by ESRD Network 11 Task Order Number 75FCMC21F0003 from May 1, 2022 - April 30, 2023.

ESRD Network 11

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ESRD DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

Midwest Kidney Network (End Stage Renal Disease Network 11)

Midwest Kidney Network (MKN) is an independent, nonprofit organization working to assess and improve the care of people with kidney disease. We serve a five-state region: Michigan, Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wisconsin.

Geography and Population Density

Our service area covers more than 350,000 square miles and spans three time zones. More than 23 million people live in this five-state region. About 70% reside in the metropolitan areas of Detroit, Milwaukee, and Minneapolis-Saint Paul, while about 30% reside in rural areas.

Diverse Populations

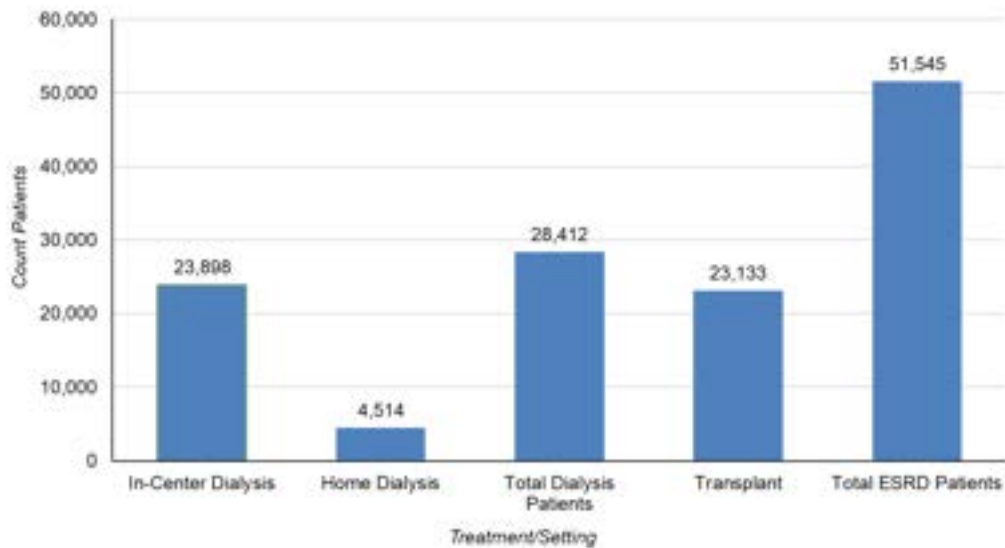
The following are notable points about the population in our five-state region as African Americans and Native Americans have a disproportionately higher incidence of kidney disease.

- At 78%, Detroit, Michigan has the third highest percentage of African American population in a US city.
- Midwest Kidney Network's five-state area contains more than fifteen Native American reservations with some of the largest populations in the United States. Nine percent of the population of South Dakota identifies as American Indian or Alaskan Native making it the state with the 4th highest percentage of Native American population in the US.

End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) in Midwest Kidney Network Region

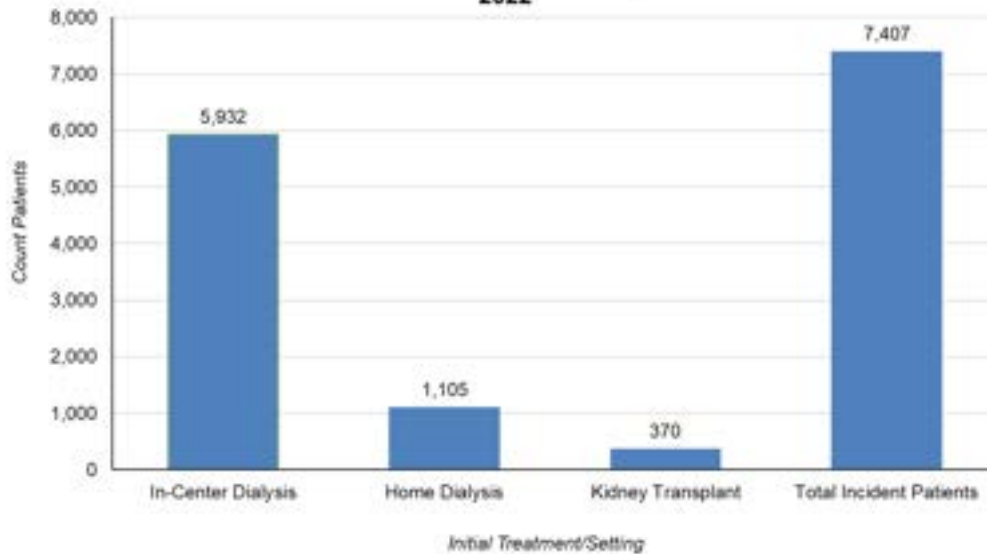
Midwest Kidney Network collaborates with 533 ESRD providers. Of the dialysis providers in this 5-state region, 39% are affiliated with DaVita, 36% are affiliated with FMC, 11% are affiliated with a regional chain, and 14% are independent.

**Network 11: Count of Prevalent ESRD Patients by Treatment/Setting
2022**



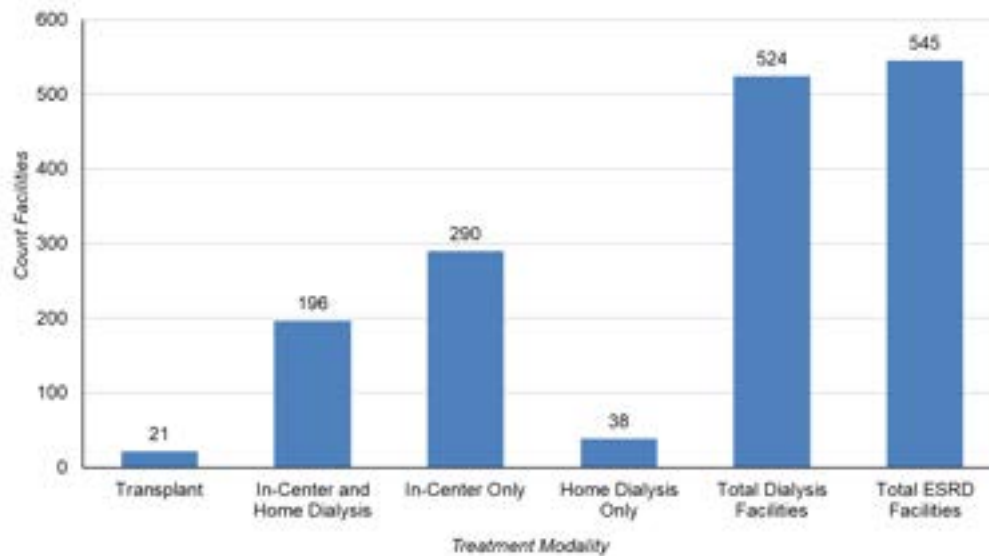
Total Dialysis Patients = In-Center Dialysis + Home Dialysis
 Total ESRD Patients = Transplant + Total Dialysis
 SNF dialysis patients are not shown due to small numbers.
 Source of data: EQRS May 2023

**Network 11: Count of Incident ESRD Patients by
Initial Treatment/Setting
2022**



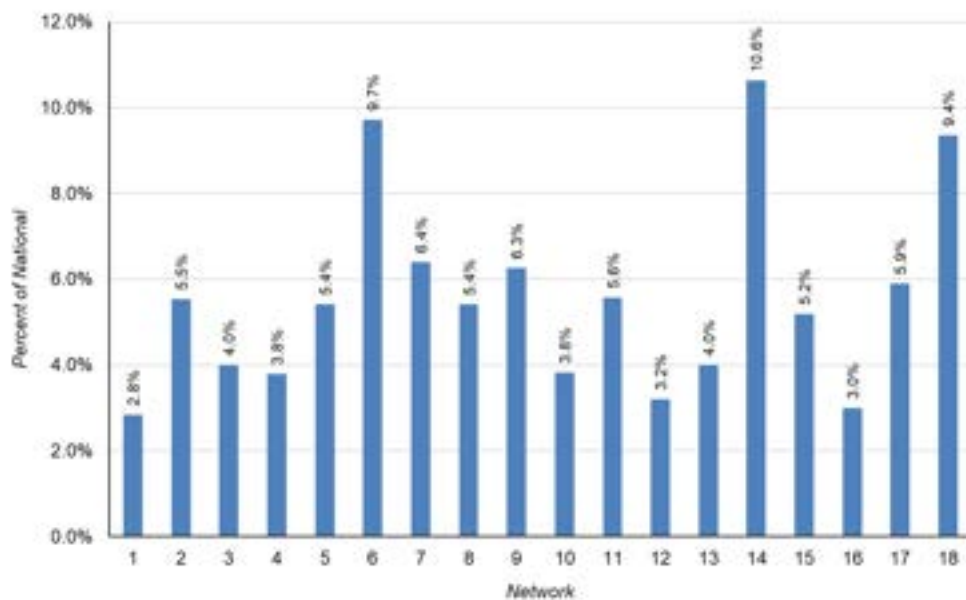
Total Incident = Patients In-Center + Home + Kidney Transplant
 Source of data: EQRS May 2023

**Network 11: Count of Medicare-Certified Facilities
by Treatment/Setting
2022**



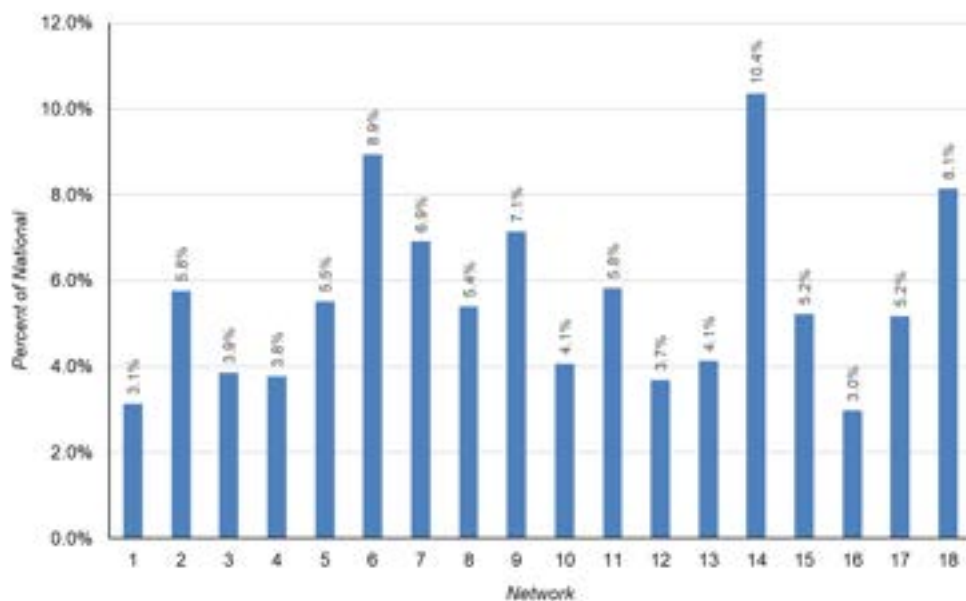
Total Dialysis Facilities = In-Center and Home Dialysis + Home Dialysis Only + In-Center Only
 Total ESRD Facilities = Transplant + Total Dialysis Facilities
 Source of data: EQRS May 2023

Percent of National Prevalent Dialysis Patients by ESRD Network 2022

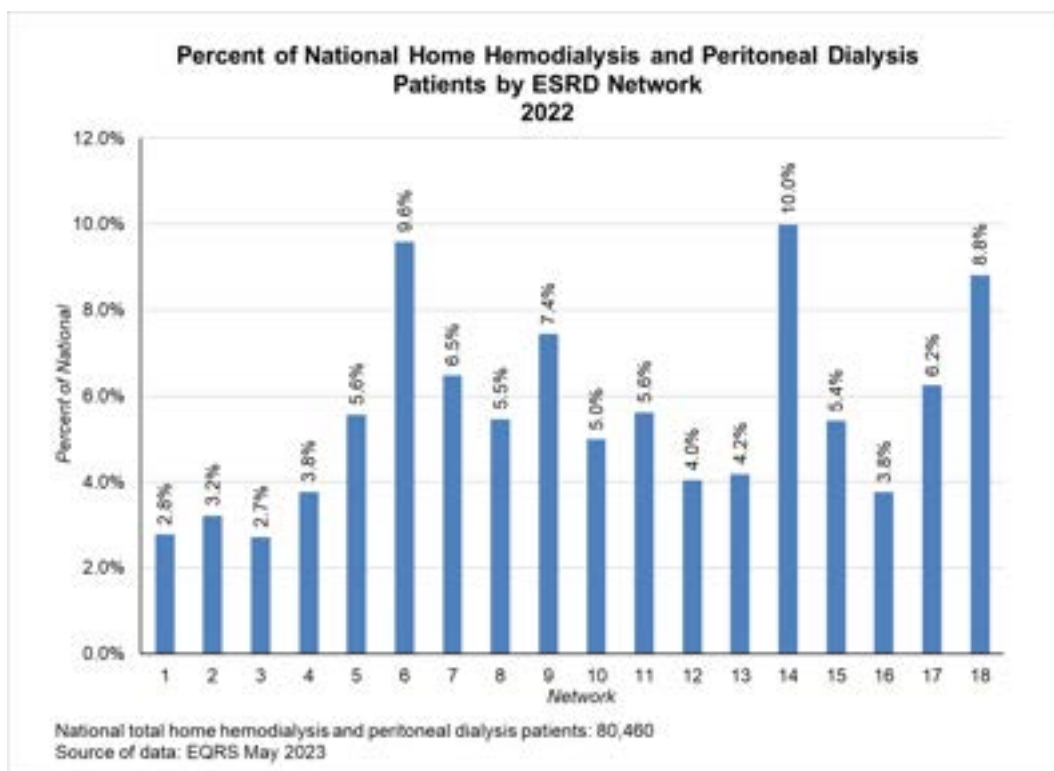
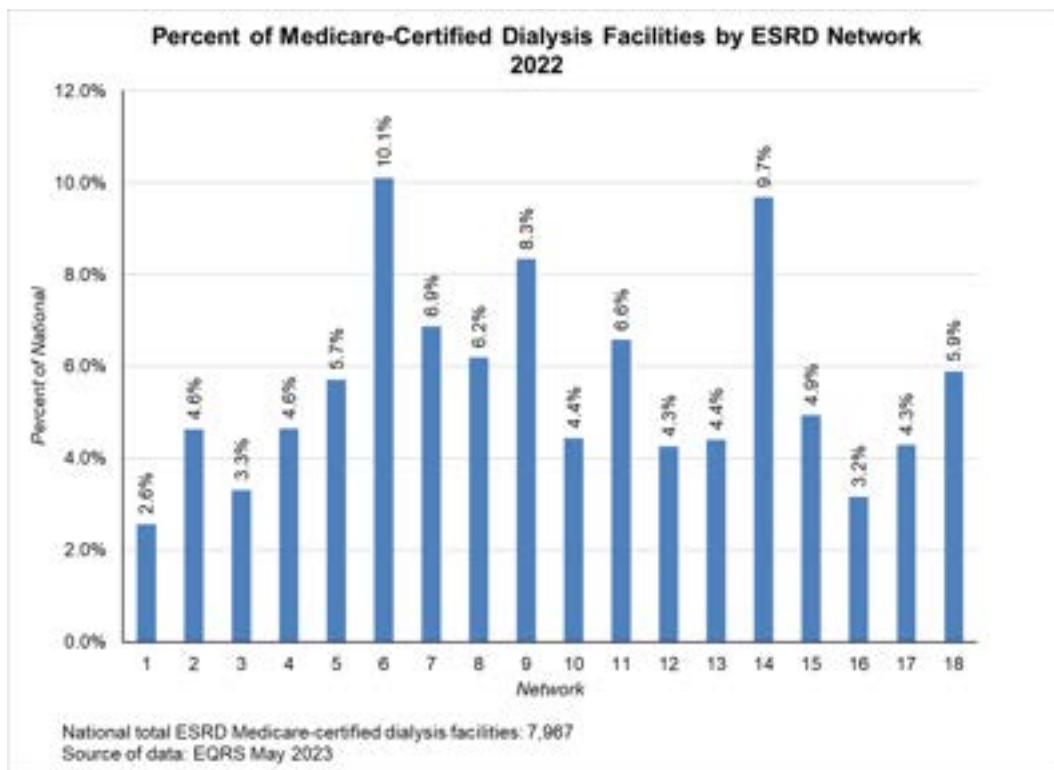


National total dialysis patients: 430,015
Source of data: EQRS May 2023

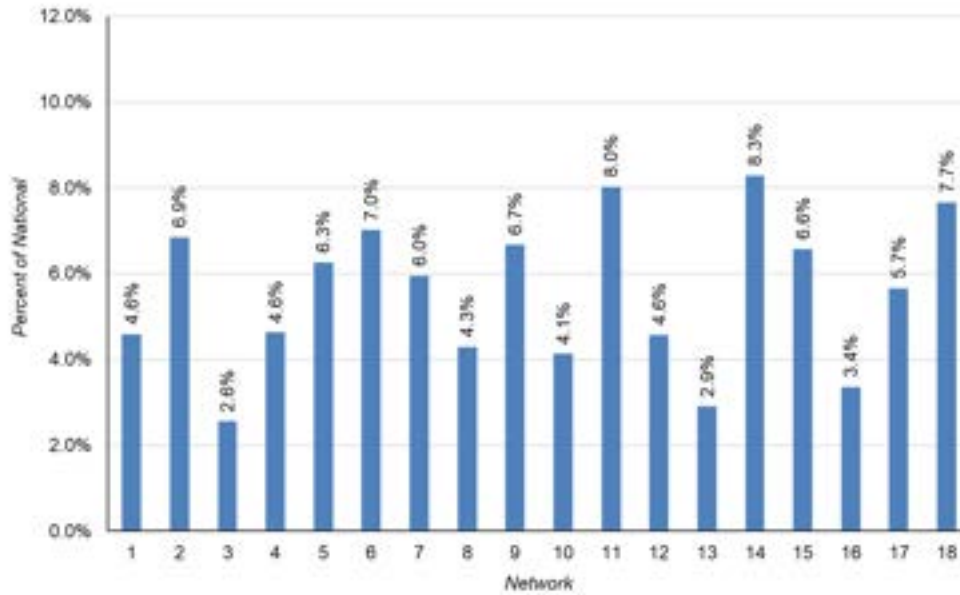
Percent of National Incident Dialysis Patients by ESRD Network 2022



National total incident patients: 127,256
Source of data: EQRS May 2023

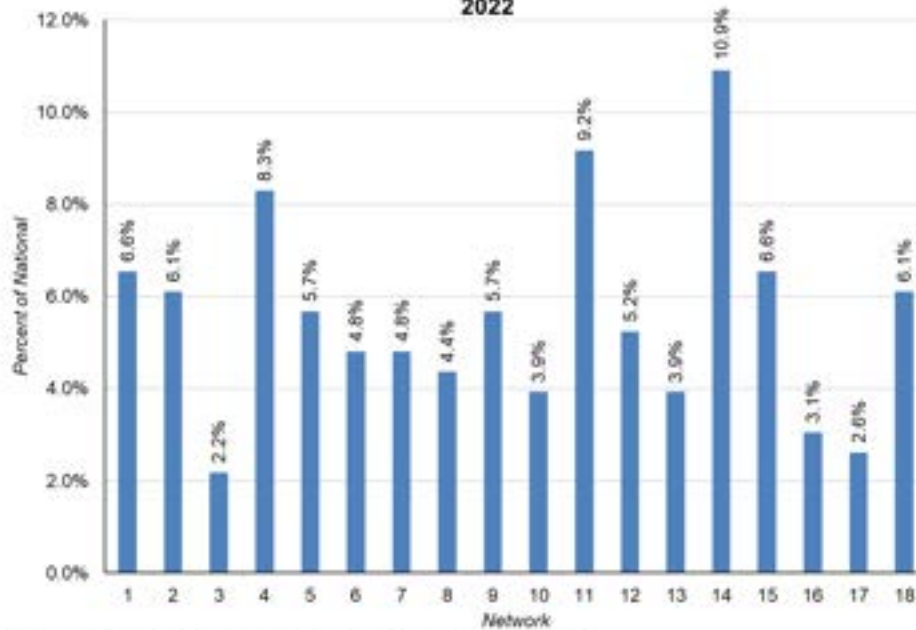


**Percent of National Transplant Patients by ESRD Network
2022**



National total transplant patients: 288,023
Source of data: EQRS May 2023

**Percent of Medicare-Certified Kidney Transplant Facilities by
ESRD Network
2022**



National total ESRD Medicare-certified kidney transplant facilities: 229
Source of data: EQRS May 2023



ESRD NETWORK GRIEVANCE AND ACCESS TO CARE DATA

Network Goals

May 2022 – April 2023:

- Increase patient awareness of the Network as an educational resource and mediator for grievances with metrics included in the Network Internal Quality Improvement plan.
- Improve the patient's experience of care by resolving grievances and access to care issues.

Responding to Patient's Concerns

From May 2022 through April 2023, the Midwest Kidney Network responded to 37 grievances from patients and provided support, strategies, options, and assistance. Midwest Kidney Network staff were intentional in their individualized customer service and incorporated the following best practices into their discussions with patients:

- Explained the grievance process and what Midwest Kidney Network can do to address their grievance.
- Reassured callers that their concern was important to us. Collaborated with patient on a plan and sought their permission and agreement to move forward.
- Sent grievance letters to patients summarizing their grievance process.

To educate patients and families, Midwest Kidney Network distributed brochures describing the role of the Network and the grievance process including the option for filing anonymous grievances.

During this same time period, the Midwest Kidney Network also responded to 16 patient concerns. Midwest Kidney Network worked with the patients to identify the type of assistance which was needed and provided the appropriate education and resources.

Working with Dialysis Providers with Concerns

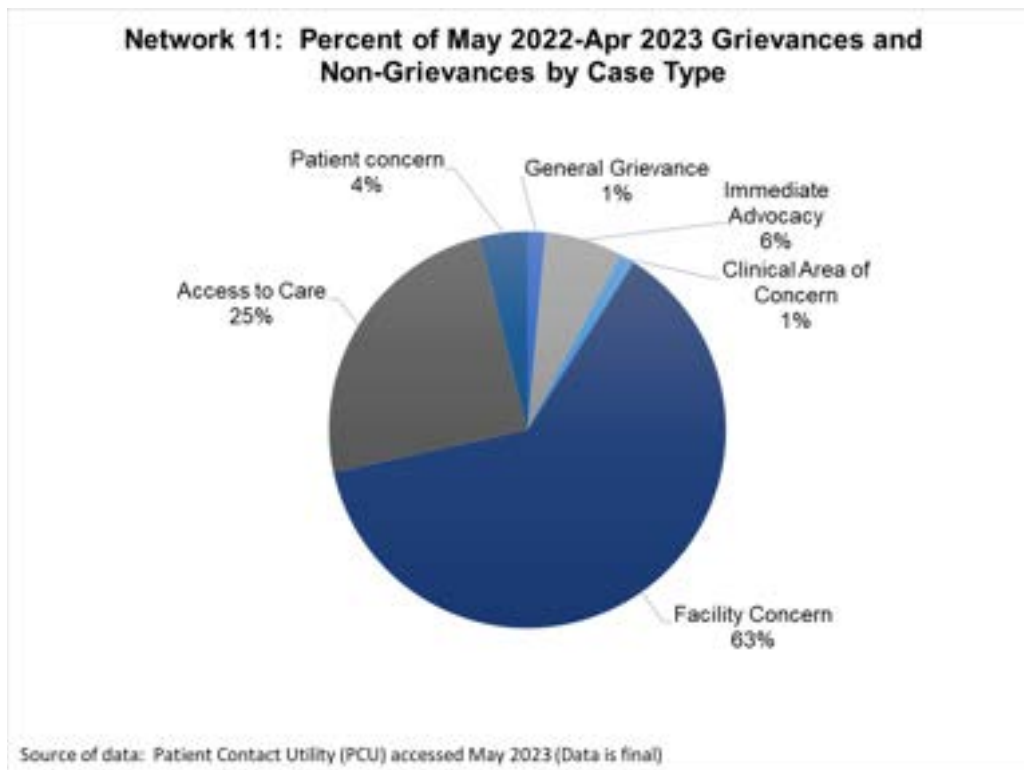
In the same time period, Midwest Kidney Network received 314 calls from facilities/providers. These facilities represent the diversity of urban/rural, inner city/suburban, Large Dialysis Organization facilities, and independent dialysis facilities. Midwest Kidney Network responded to calls from dialysis facilities by aiding in problem solving, sharing best practices, helping to understand the Medicare Conditions for Coverage as it applies to grievances, and strategizing interventions in working with behavioral issues in the dialysis unit.

Results

During this 12-month time period, Midwest Kidney Network responded to a total of 367 concerns filed by patients and facility personnel. Calls included:

- Facility Concerns 257
- Access to Care Issues 57
- Immediate Advocacy 26
- Quality of Care issues 5
- General Grievances 6
- Patient Concerns 16

Source of data: EQRS Patient Contact Utility (PCU)





Transplant Waitlist & Transplanted May 2022-April 2023

Network Goals

- Achieve an increase in the number of patients added to the transplant waiting list in the Network service area by at least 5%.
- Achieve a 6% increase in the number of patients receiving a kidney transplant by the end of the base period.

Project Participants

Project participants in the 2022-2023 project included 513 dialysis and 21 transplant centers with a cohort focus group of approximately 38 dialysis facilities consisting of mid-level and low-level performers. Midwest Kidney Network worked with low performing facilities to provide technical assistance, and with high performing facilities to collect best practices to share with all facilities.

Patient Engagement

Patients subject matter experts (SMEs) provided input into the project shape and direction through participation on the Transplant Advisory Committee, evaluating project activities and sharing their expertise and experience through the Consumer Committee. Patient SMEs also contributed to educational tools related to modality education and transplant, including a video entitled “What I wish I Knew,” which is a composition of patients sharing their experiences and advice to other kidney patients. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4_wDO8OEbo4

Health Equity

The Midwest Kidney Network collaborated with ESRD Networks 10 & 12 to present a two-part webinar series. The first webinar focused on a broad level overview of health equity, cultural competency, and limited English proficiency and the impact on patient care. The second webinar focused on [Engaging diverse communities about organ, tissue, and eye donation through an EDI lens](#), including kidney transplantation. Key takeaways were the importance of having authentic conversations and building relationships to engage diverse communities. We utilized lessons learned to strategize our approach to all QI projects.

Midwest Kidney Network analyzed and reviewed data on disparities in transplantation, identifying key areas for improvement. The Network reviewed topics with the Transplant Advisory Group and identified topics for focus and strategies that addressed race, language, and socio-economic issues.

Two Network 11 patient subject matter experts were invited to present at the 2022 CMS Quality Conference on health disparities, with a focus on transplantation and mentoring.

Interventions

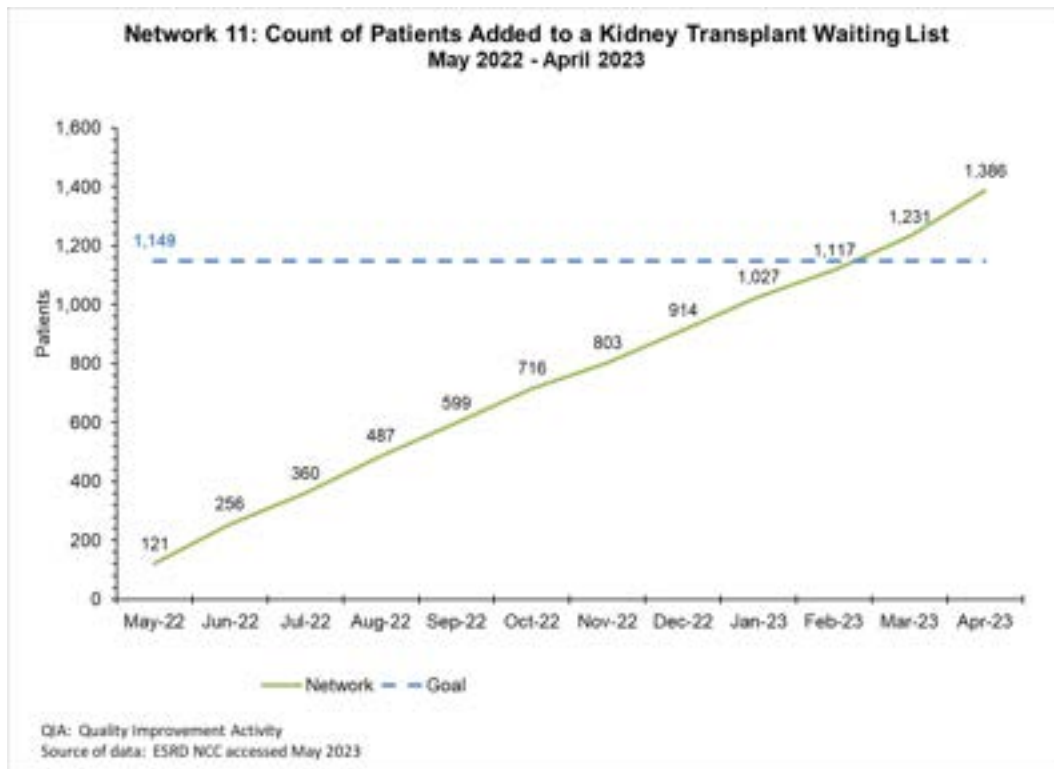
Midwest Kidney Network incorporated a variety of strategic interventions to enhance working relationships between dialysis facilities and kidney transplant centers. We promoted best practices to support patient education and patient transition from transplant referral to transplant waitlist. Results-oriented interventions included the following activities:

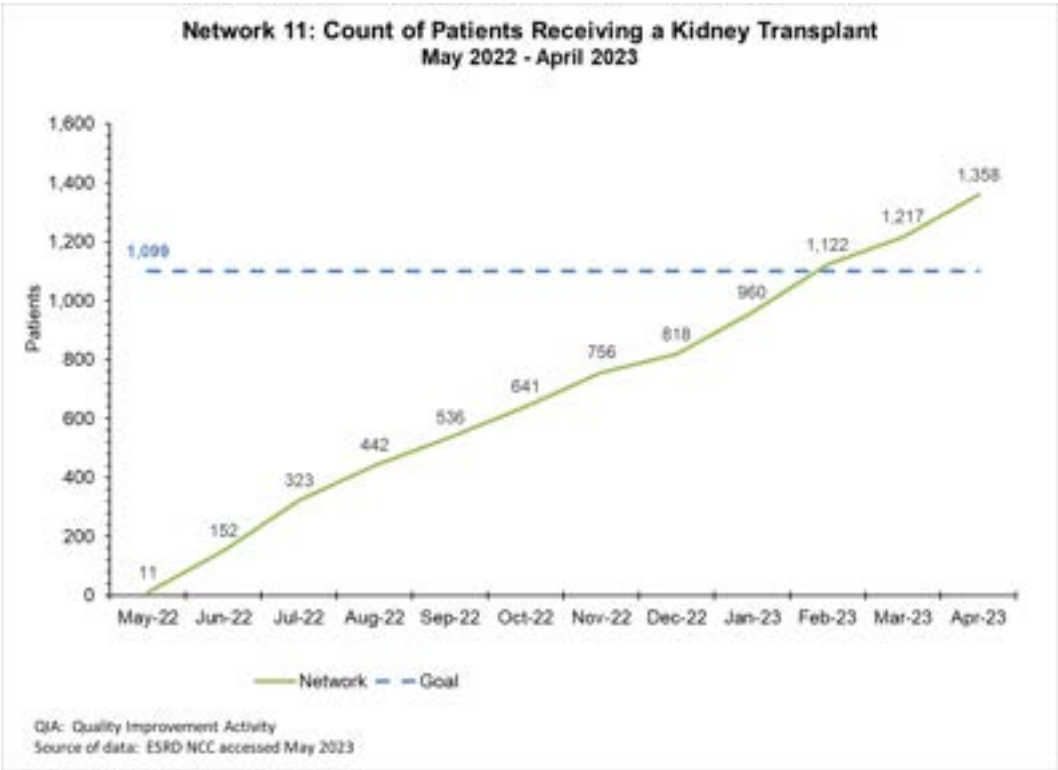
- Change package concepts were used as a foundation with a focus on a cohort of 38 facilities. Specific sections of the Change Package were selected to focus on with select facilities based on analysis of current barrier for strategies for mitigation. The Change Package was shared with all facilities in the Network 11 region as well.
- Worked with a variety of organizations to discuss, support and /or collaborate with on increasing kidney transplantation. These organizations included Minnesota National Kidney Foundation, Wisconsin Donate Life, LifeSource OPO, Versiti OPO, University of Wisconsin Health OPO, and Michigan Gift of Life. As well as the University of Wisconsin Health & Froedtert transplant programs. The sharing of best practices, promotion of upcoming events as well as ongoing education were shared within organizations and helped to shape the project PDSA cycle and overall plan.
- We identified low, middle, and high performing facilities to tailor interventions and provide facility-specific technical assistance. Best practices from high performing facilities were shared with facilities in the Network region.
- Network 11 participated with transplant centers, organ procurement organizations and donor hospitals forming the Donate Life Wisconsin Leadership Network. The collaborative met monthly through All Teach All Learn interactive sessions to identify best practices within each organization to share with members and spread throughout the region. Two examples of best practices include:
 - Establishing a knowledge sharing networking group for pediatric centers in the Midwest region.
 - Shared the Top of the List Clinic best practice with dialysis and transplant facilities. The program facilitates the review of patients nearing the top of the organ offer list to ensure transplant readiness.
- Supported increasing communication through:
 - The encouragement of transplant staff attendance at dialysis facility Quality Assurance & Performance Improvement meetings (QAPI) or regularly scheduled calls.
 - Sharing reports for patient transplant status review between transplant staff and dialysis staff.
 - Increased accuracy and standardization in monthly patient status updates from transplant centers.
 - Promoting transplant Center staff in-person meetings with dialysis staff and attendance in QAPI (as allowed) to further clarify patient status and next steps during evaluation process.
- Convened calls with high performing facilities to share best practices.

- Midwest Kidney Network staff convened a transplant advisory group including dialysis social workers, nurses, transplant surgeons, transplant coordinators, and patient subject matter experts to identify challenges and best practices and recommend process changes.
- Regularly scheduled calls with Organ Procurement Organizations and the Network 11 collaboration action group to identify common goals and strategies for improvement.
- Identified and shared best practices regionally as well as with other Networks.
- Actively engaged facilities in the use of ESRD NCC resources and tools to support kidney transplantation and waitlisting for both staff and patients.
- Midwest Kidney Network utilized Power Point presentations and webinars on demand to make all educational opportunities accessible to all staff.
- The Plan, Do, Study, Act process was utilized throughout the project timeline to identify best practices to continue and share, strategies that were less effective to abandon and initiate new intervention to promote better outcomes.

Results

From May 2022 through April 2023, 1386 patients in the Midwest Kidney Network region were added to the kidney transplant waitlist, exceeding the goal of 1151 patients. The number of patients in the Network 11 region who received a kidney transplant progressed to 1358, exceeding the goal of 1100 patients.





Home Therapy May 2022-April 2023

Network Goals

- Increase the number of incident ESRD patients starting dialysis using a home modality by at least 20%, from a baseline of 1011 patients to a goal of 1213 patients per year.
- Increase the number of prevalent ESRD patients moving to a home modality by at least 6%, from a baseline of 1814 patients to a goal of 1923 patients per year.

Project Participants

The 2022-2023 project included all dialysis facilities in the Midwest Kidney Network region.

Patient Engagement and Health Equity

Patients across the Network 11 service area shaped the direction of this project by supporting the development of educational tools and interventions and utilizing the Home Dialysis Change Package. Patients helped identify key focus areas such as ongoing modality education and sharing patient experiences with each modality choice. We continue to share the patient-centered booklet *My Life, My Choice* which outlines patient specific experiences with different modalities including home hemodialysis and peritoneal dialysis. Patient SMEs also contributed to educational tools related to modality education through a video entitled “What I wish I Knew,” which is a composition of patients sharing their experiences and advice to other kidney patients. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4_wDO8OEbo4

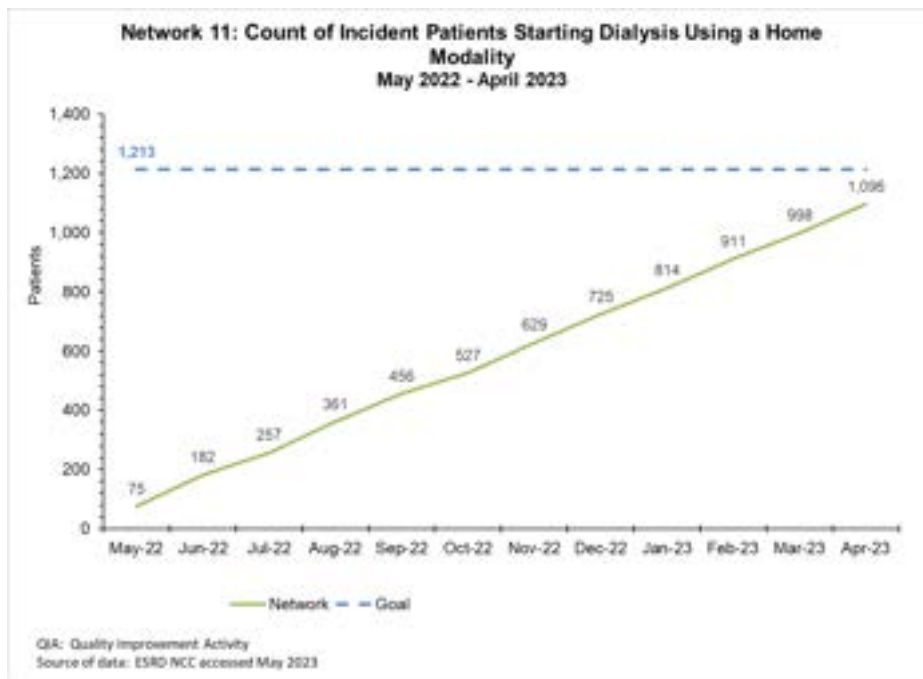
We included the topic of health inequities in choosing home dialysis, looking at urban, rural, gender, race, and socioeconomic status.

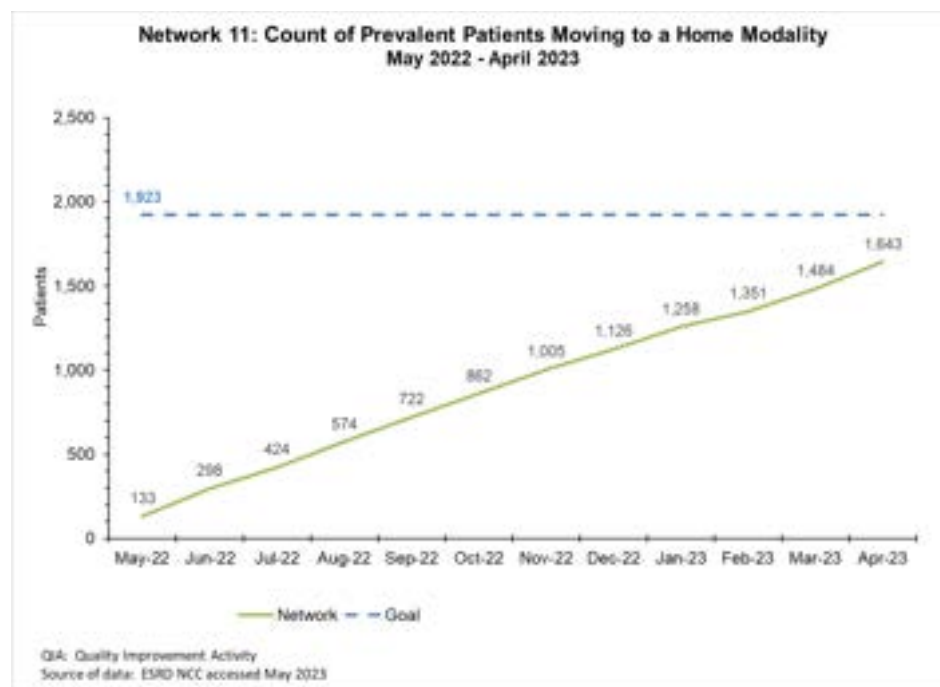
Interventions

- We developed a coalition of experts to guide the planning and development of interventions for the project. The coalition included empowered patients, nephrologists, nurses in home dialysis and incenter hemodialysis units, providers of home dialysis in skilled nursing facilities, local experts, social workers, and educators.
- We utilized the Home Dialysis Change Package to guide the projects.
- We participated in Project ECHO, an NKF initiative this year, which involves case studies and didactic presentations twice per month on a variety of home dialysis topics.
- We looked at home dialysis units for incident patients, and incenter home dialysis units for prevalent patients. We utilized a sticker project, 3-month plan project and Project ECHO participants for prevalent patients.
- We promoted patient-created educational resources from the ESRD National Coordinating Center and other stakeholders.

Results

- From May 2022 to April 2023, 1,096 incident patients in the Midwest Kidney Network region started dialysis using a home modality, working towards the goal of 1213 patients.
- From May 2022 to April 2023, 1,643 in-center dialysis patients moved to a home modality, working towards the goal of 1923 patients.
- Using the sticker project and 3-month plan project facilities reached 75% of their prevalent goals but our Project ECHO group reached and exceeded goal in prevalent patients choosing to transition to home dialysis.





Influenza Vaccinations (Patient and Staff)

May 2022-April 2023

Network Goal

- Ensure a minimum of 90% of dialysis patients receive an influenza vaccination.
- Ensure a minimum of 90% of dialysis facility staff receive an influenza vaccination.

Project Participants

The 2022-2023 project included all dialysis facilities in the Midwest Kidney Network region.

Patient Engagement and Health Equity

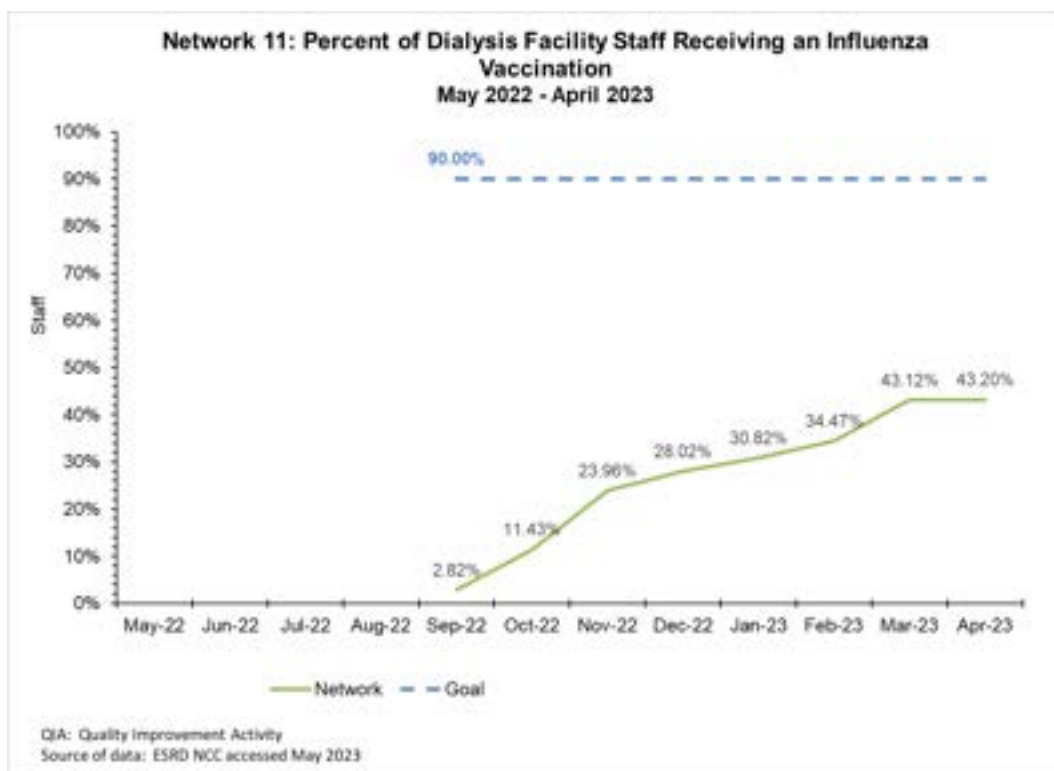
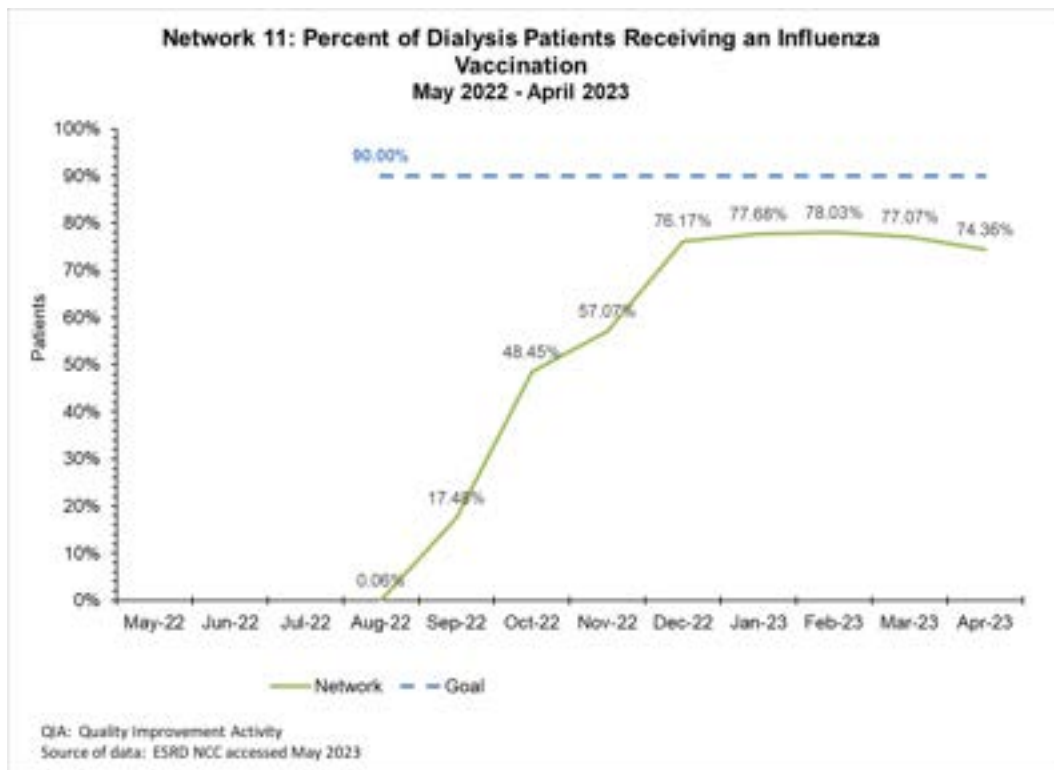
Patients across the Network 11 service area shaped the direction of this project by supporting the development of educational tools and interventions. Patients helped identify key focus areas such as resources on disparities, participation in the Midwest Kidney Network Advisory Groups and on the Consumer Committee.

Interventions

- We encouraged facilities in creating an Influenza bulletin board for their patients and also shared visuals of previous examples.
- We distributed the [2022 NCC Vaccine Information](#) sheet to all units for distribution to patients when they receive the vaccine.
- We provided resources on the current CDC recommendations on pneumococcal and flu vaccination, and updated information as available.
- Provided the most current vaccination recommendation for healthcare workers from OSHA.
- We began promoting pneumonia vaccinations in the summer so we could push influenza vaccinations in the fall.
- Shared the NCC Vaccination Change Package and Forum of ESRD Network's Vaccination Toolkit and utilized components during technical assistance calls.

Results

From August 2022 through April 2023, Midwest Kidney Network's influenza vaccination rate progressed to 74.4% for patients and 43.2% for facility staff, working towards the goals of 90%.



COVID-19 Vaccinations (Patients and Staff)

May 2022-April 2023

Network Goals

- Ensure a minimum of 80% of dialysis patients receive a primary COVID-19 vaccination or vaccination series.
- Ensure a minimum of 80% of fully vaccinated dialysis patients receive an additional CDC and/or CMS recommended COVID-19 vaccination.
- Ensure 100% of dialysis facility staff receive a primary COVID-19 vaccination or vaccination series.
- Ensure 100% of fully vaccinated dialysis facility staff receive an additional CDC and/or CMS recommended COVID-19 vaccination.

Project Participants

The 2022-2023 project included all dialysis facilities in the Midwest Kidney Network region, with focused cohort technical assistance to Michigan facilities not meeting the patient 80% vaccination goals starting in January 2023.

Patient Engagement and Health Equity

Patients across the Network 11 service area shaped the direction of this project by supporting the development of educational tools and interventions. The Network utilized and promoted patient produced materials, including the Forum of ESRD Kidney Patient Advisory Council (KPAC) [COVID Booster Superhero Poster and KPAC bivalent vaccine fact sheet](#). During National Immunization month in August, vaccine equity was highlighted, and educational materials were disseminated to all Network facilities, including the “We Can Do This Campaign” with different vaccine strategies for different patient populations.

Interventions

- Frequently shared CDC education and updated guidance with all Midwest Kidney Network facilities. Promoted all relevant CDC COCA calls and distributed key slides with pertinent information to facilities after the calls.
- Shared best practices during technical assistance calls and with cohort PDSA groups, using the Vaccination Change Package as a foundation, with specific focus on utilizing a vaccine manager, completing immunization reconciliation, and ensuring accurate data entry.
- Completed monthly technical assistance calls to facilities identified as having increased COVID-19 cases.
- Updated Network website to ensure most relevant and up to date COVID resources and infection control recommendations were easily accessible to facilities.

- Shared updated guidance on COVID vaccination data entry into NHSN to ensure data integrity.
- Convened monthly state-specific COVID-19 calls to discuss local case trends, identify challenges in vaccination, and promote infection mitigation strategies to reduce risk of COVID-19 hospitalizations.
- Continued to support staff resiliency through the promotion of a free wellness series event hosted by [Superior Health Quality Alliance](#) and Duke Center for Healthcare Safety and Quality entitled “[Recharging from Pandemic Exhaustion](#).”
- Prepared and delivered a presentation on a national COVID-19 vaccination community of practice call in February 2023, highlighting the PDSA cycle and pivot in strategy in January 2023 to focus on Michigan facilities not meeting the 80% patient vaccination goal.

Results

From May 2022 through April 2023, Midwest Kidney Network’s rate of patients receiving a primary COVID-19 vaccination or vaccination series progressed to 78.1%, working toward the goal of 80%, with four of the five states in the Network exceeding the 80% goal. The rate of fully vaccinated dialysis patients receiving an additional CDC and/or CMS recommended COVID-19 vaccination progressed to 67.2%, working toward the goal of 80%.

The Network’s rate of dialysis facility staff receiving a primary COVID-19 vaccination or vaccination series progressed to 81.9%, working toward the goal of 100%. The rate of fully vaccinated dialysis facility staff receiving an additional CDC and/or CMS recommended COVID-19 vaccination progressed to 40.9%, working toward the goal of 100%.

Network 11: Percent of Dialysis Patients Receiving a Primary COVID-19 Vaccination and/or Vaccination Series
May 2022 - April 2023



QIA: Quality Improvement Activity

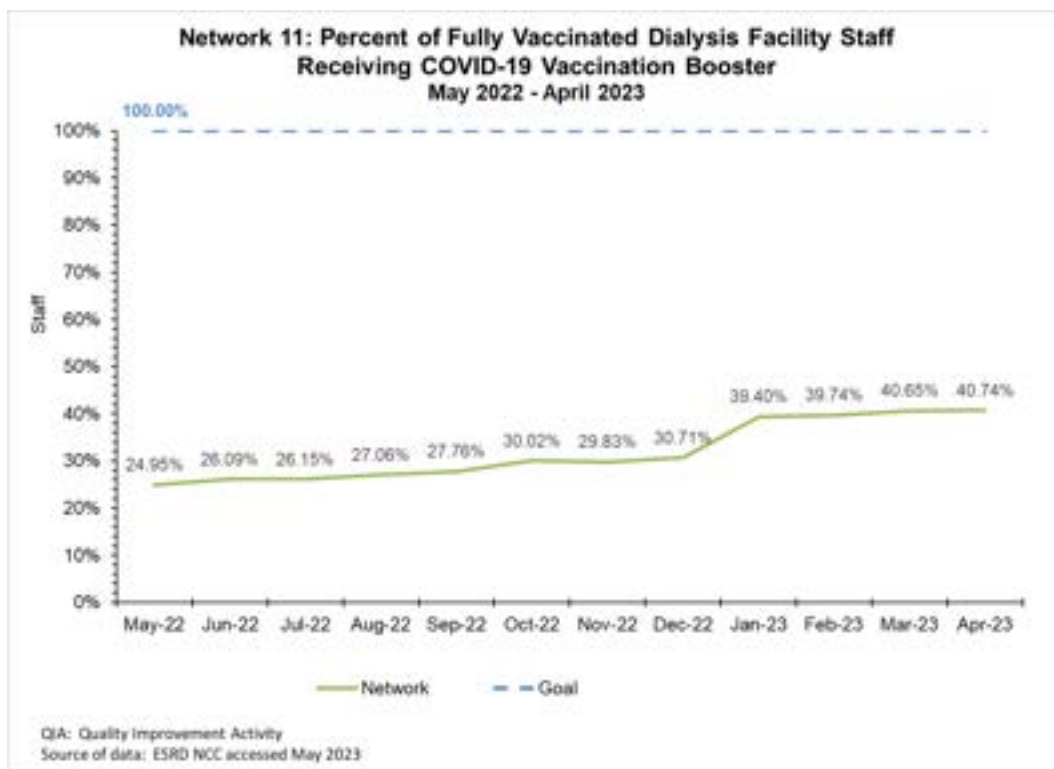
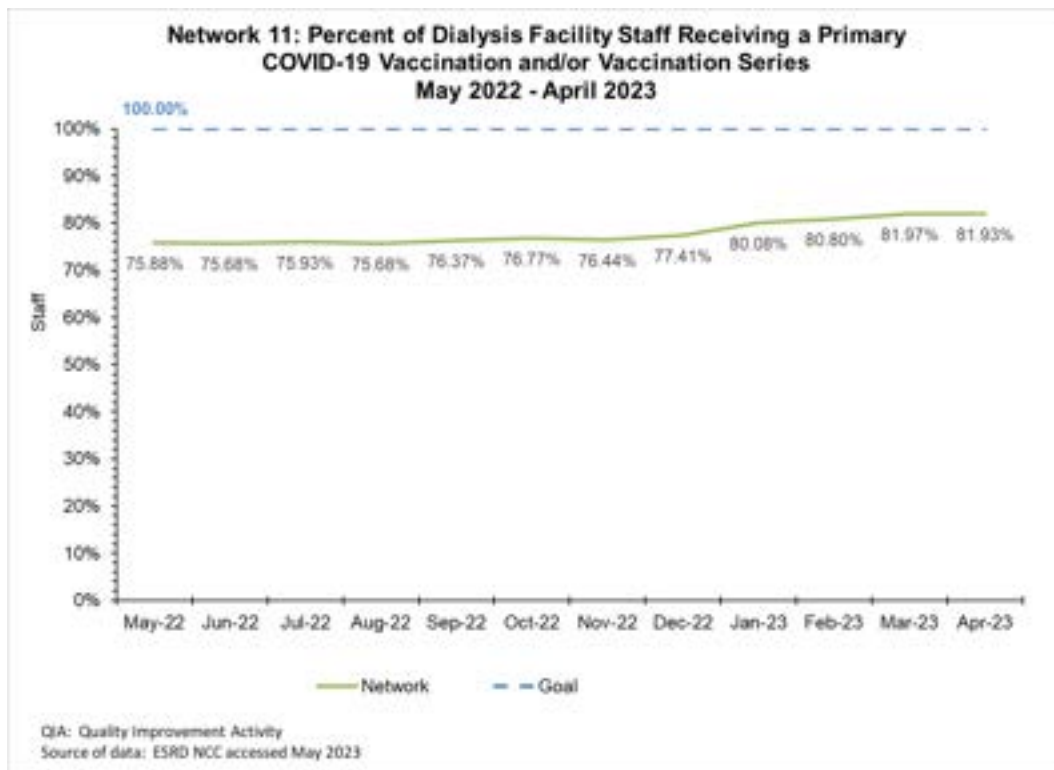
Source of data: ESRD NCC accessed May 2023

Network 11: Percent of Fully Vaccinated Dialysis Patients Receiving COVID-19 Vaccination Booster
May 2022 - April 2023



QIA: Quality Improvement Activity

Source of data: ESRD NCC accessed May 2023



Data Quality (Admissions, CMS Form 2728, CMS Form 2746)

May 2022-April 2023

Network Goal

- Achieve an increase in the rate of patient admission records from dialysis facilities entered within five business days by 5%.
- Achieve an increase in the rate of CMS 2728 forms from dialysis facilities and transplant centers submitted within 45 days by 4%.
- Achieve an increase in the rate of CMS 2746 forms submitted from dialysis facilities within 14 days of the date of death by 5%.

Project Participants

The 2022-2023 Data Quality Measures project included all dialysis facilities and transplant centers in the Midwest Kidney Network five state region.

Interventions

Midwest Kidney Network staff completed the following interventions to support facility movement towards Data Quality Measures goals.

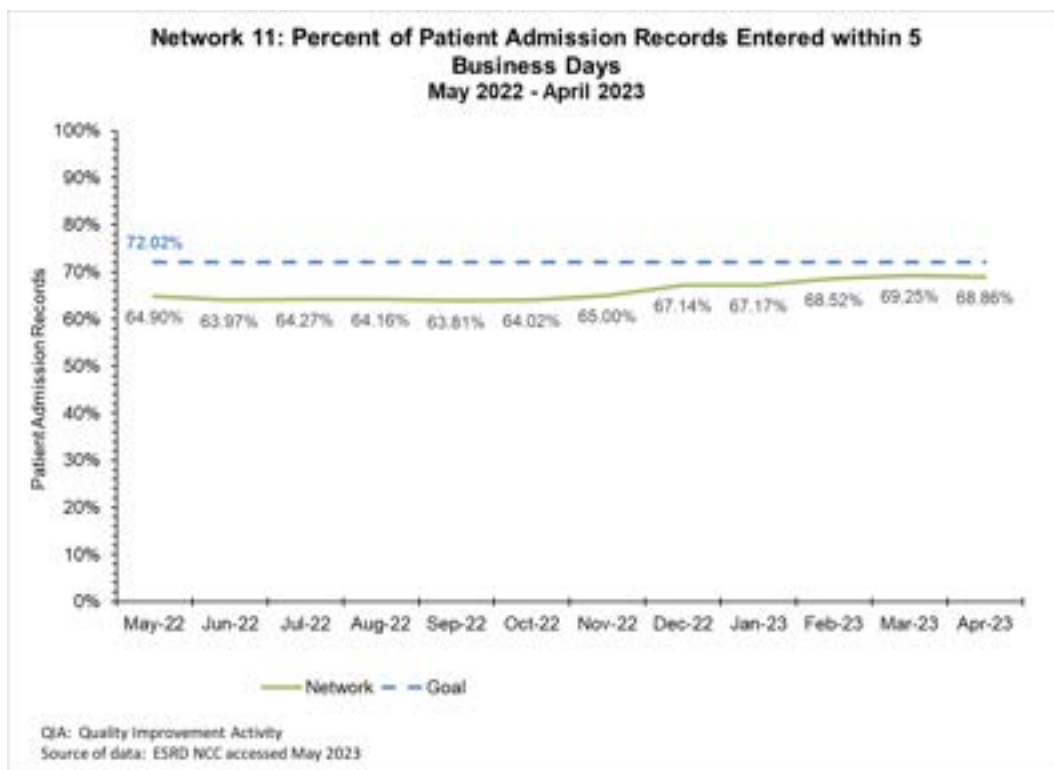
- Network EQRS technical assistance was available to all providers on an on-demand basis. Dialysis facilities and transplant unit staff were able to contact Midwest Kidney Network to resolve any EQRS technical issues, questions, or concerns Monday through Friday 8:00am – 5:00pm. A total of 13,727 technical assistance events were concluded in Option Year 1 (2022-2023).
- Beginning in June 2022, the Midwest Kidney Network Data Team created and distributed monthly *Data Quality Measures Facility Specific Reports* which provided the facility administrator with detailed information about the facility's data quality measures and progress-to-date toward the measure's goal.
- Weekly faxed reminders were sent to all dialysis facilities regarding upcoming due dates for CMS 2728 & 2746 forms. A total of 2,672 form reminders were faxed in Option Year 1 (2022-2023).
- Midwest Kidney Network created EQRS job aids plus live and recorded trainings were distributed to all providers on the following topics: CMS 2728 & 2746 Best Practices for Submission, EQRS Admissions and Discharges, EQRS & Data Quality Measures Overview, EQRS Open Office Hours, EQRS New User Training for Dialysis Providers, 2744 EQRS Clean-Up Event, and EQRS New User Training for Transplant Providers. All EQRS job aids and training were posted on the Network website for on-demand access.
- Midwest Kidney Network resolved 4,915 EQRS data discrepancies using NCC Data Reports.
- Network staff created and mailed (during the holiday season) a full color postcard to all providers with our contact information, which illustrated the ways in which we support

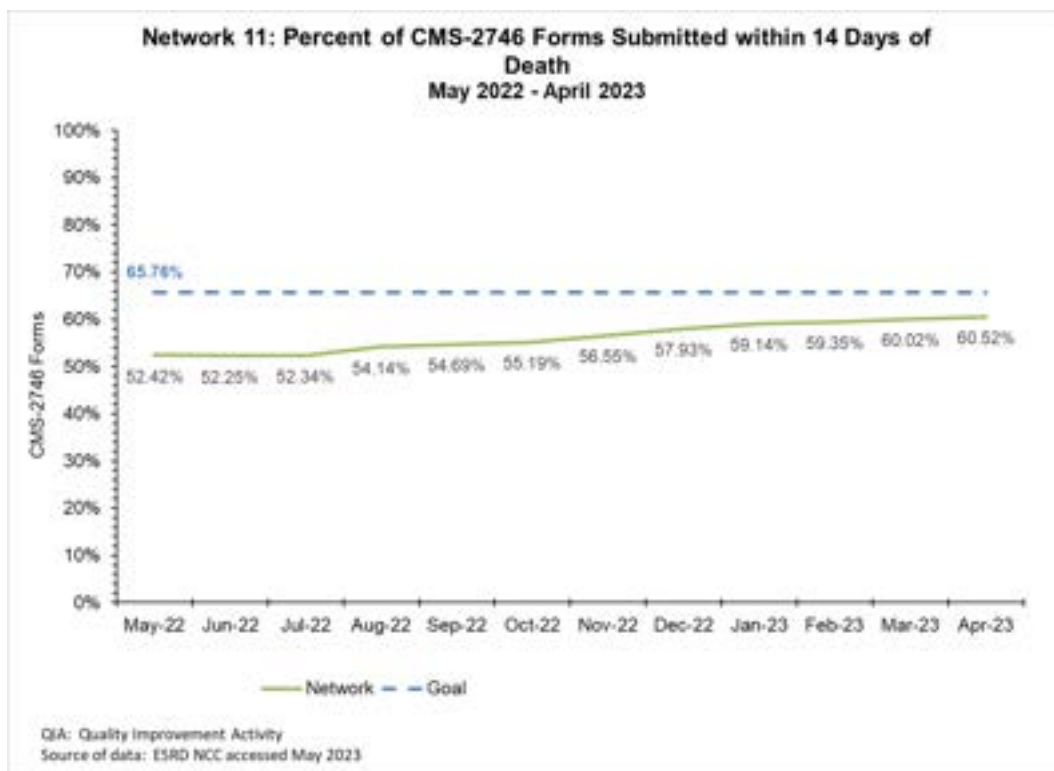
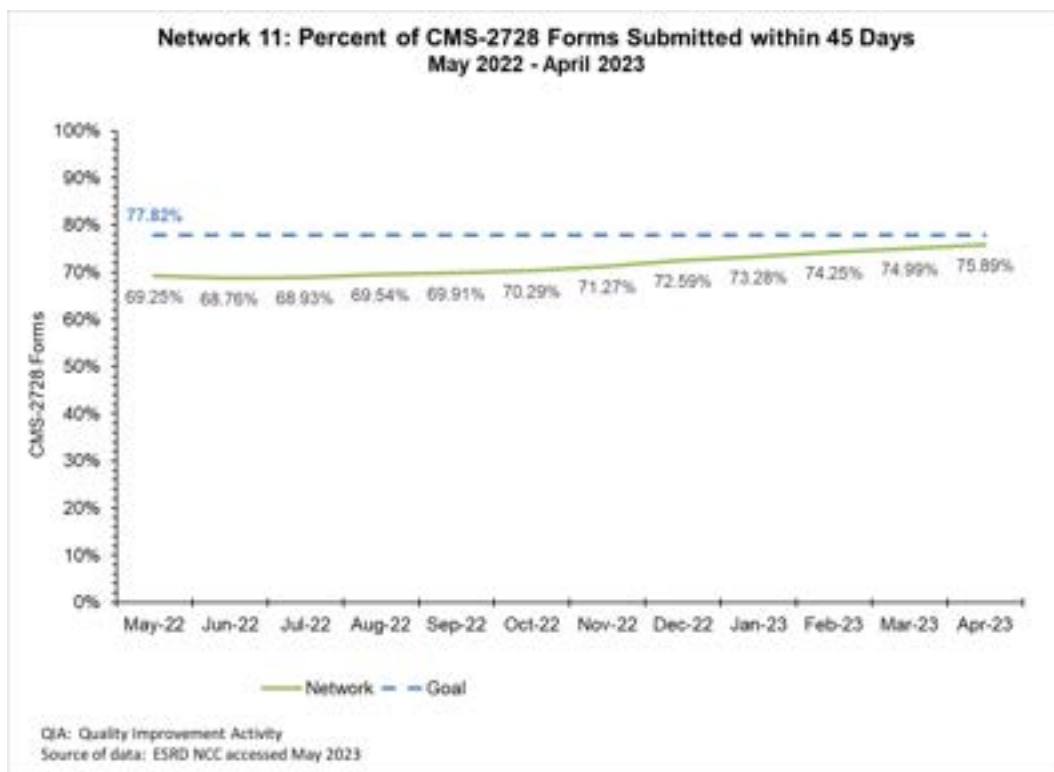
providers via EQRS technical assistance. The Network's *EQRS Help for the Holidays* campaign was very successful, which was demonstrated by the increase in our monthly Data Quality Measures rates during this time period.

Results

Overall, Midwest Kidney Network did not meet the three Data Quality Measures goals for 2022-2023. However, the Network did see a notable steady increase in all three goals over the course of Option Year 1, beginning as early as June 2022.

- From May 2022 to April 2023, Midwest Kidney Network's rate of patient admission records entered within five business days increased to 68.86%, working toward the goal of 72.02%.
- From May 2022 to April 2023, Midwest Kidney Network's rate of CMS-2728 forms submitted within 45 days increased to 75.89%, working toward the goal of 77.82%.
- From May 2022 to April 2023, Midwest Kidney Network's rate of CMS-2746 forms submitted within 45 days increased to 60.52%, working toward the goal of 65.76%.





Hospitalization **(Inpatient Admissions, ED Visits, Readmissions and COVID-19 Admissions)** **May 2022-April 2023**

Network Goals

- Achieve a decrease in the rate of hospital admissions for a diagnosis on the Primary Diagnosis Categories in the Network service area by at least 5%, from a baseline of 3.15 to a goal of 2.99 admissions per 100 patient months.
- Achieve a decrease in the rate of outpatient emergency department visits for a diagnosis on the Primary Diagnosis Categories in the Network service area by at least 5%, from a baseline of 1.71 to a goal of 1.63 ED visits per 100 patient months.
- Achieve a decrease in the rate of hospital 30-day unplanned readmissions for a diagnosis on the Primary Diagnosis Categories in the Network service area by at least 5%, from a baseline of 11.5% to a goal of 10.9% of discharges.
- Achieve a decrease in the number of COVID-19 hospitalizations for ESRD patients with Medicare FFS as a payer source in the Network service area by at least 25%, for a goal of less than 1426 COVID-19 hospitalizations.

Project Participants

All dialysis providers in the Midwest Kidney Network service area participated in the project in 2022-2023, with a total of 112 low-performers recruited throughout the year for participation in a 4-month PDSA cycle workplan to address one of the project goals.

Patient Engagement and Health Equity

Patients across the Network 11 service area shaped the direction of this project by supporting the development of educational tools and interventions and giving insight to barriers. Patients helped identify key focus areas such as patient education on triaging medical concerns. Midwest Kidney Network analyzed unique needs impacting rates in rural versus urban areas and continues to develop strategies to address social determinants of health and their influences on hospitalization, readmissions, and emergency department usage, including promoting the use of a social determinants of health screening tool to identify unmet needs impacting patients' healthcare usage.

Interventions

Midwest Kidney Network utilized various strategies to develop tailored interventions based on facility's unique needs. We promoted root cause analysis to understand the factors leading to hospitalization and emergency department usage and promoted best practices to address transitions of care. Results-oriented interventions included the following activities:

- Analyzed hospitalization data and identified low-performing facilities for PDSA cycle participation for each of the 4 goals in the project. Facilities received a 4-month work plan and tailored technical assistance specific to their needs, as well as facility rate trends over time to support project participation.
- Convened quarterly meetings with the hospitalization advisory group, which was comprised of nephrologists, nurses, social workers, dietician, and patient subject matter experts to identify challenges, discuss best practices, review Network 11 data, and shape the project interventions. The advisory group was updated on the project between meetings to garner feedback on which project strategies to abandon or adopt, and to seek insight into new ideas for innovative mitigation strategies.
- Convened monthly state specific COVID calls to discuss local case trends, identify challenges in vaccination, and promote infection mitigation strategies to reduce risk of COVID hospitalizations. Met with Infection Control Assessment and Response (ICAR) teams from each of the 5 Network states to establish working partnerships and plan for future collaborations.
- Collaborated with Superior Health Quality Alliance on implementation of a Reducing Readmissions/Transitions in Care Sprint with the target audience of hospitals and dialysis facilities. Developed a Dialysis Facility Transitions in Care Assessment and Reducing Readmissions Resource Toolkit based on the Forum of ESRD Network's Transitions in Care Toolkit, the NCC Hospitalization Change Package, and other pertinent resources to guide dialysis sprint participants through the QI steps to address improvements in transitions in care processes. Presented the Sprint project at a poster session during the 2023 CMS Quality Conference, and during the May 2023 Transitions in Care Expert Teams call.
- Collaborated with Network 4 to create a patient education resource as a component of a toolkit of resources focused on reducing emergency department usage through education on when and where best to seek care.
- Shared best practices and education on factors impacting hospitalization rates each month via email to all Network 11 facilities, as well as convened open office hours for facilities to provide feedback and collaborate across organizations.
- Prepared and delivered a presentation for the national Hospitalization Community of Practice call in August 2022 where root cause analysis findings, best practices, and interventions were shared. Facilitated a Network case study presentation for Transitions in Care Expert Teams call in February 2023.

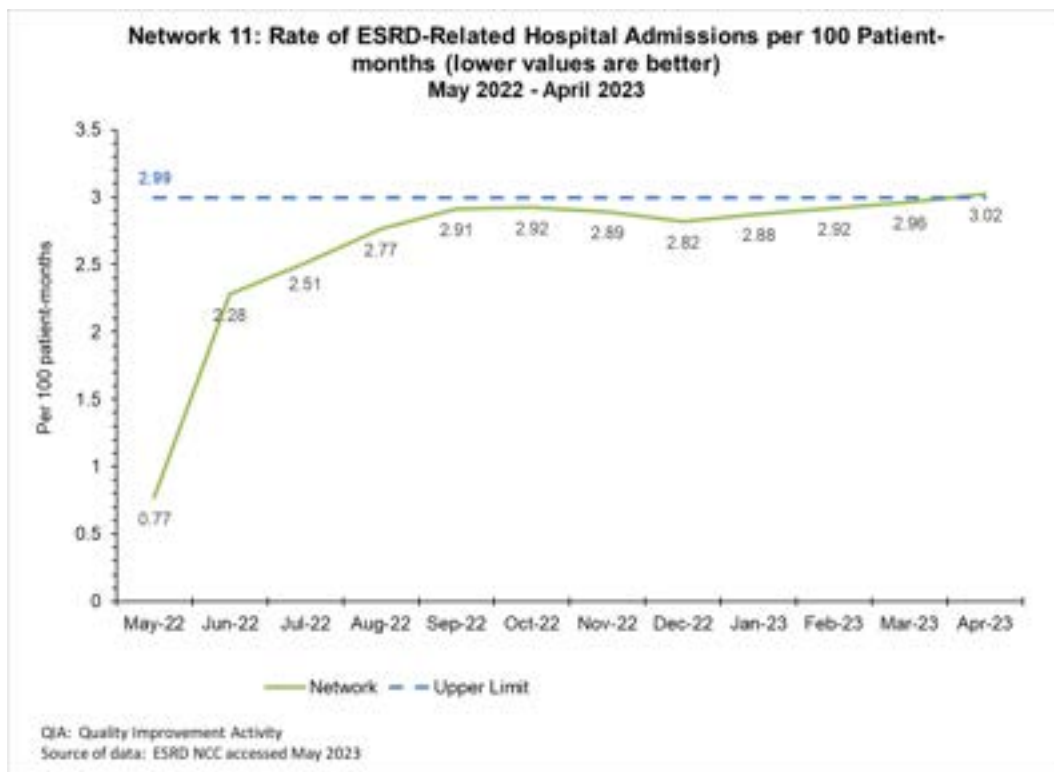
Results

From May 2022 to April 2023, Midwest Kidney Network's rate of hospital admissions was 3.02 admissions per 100 patient months, working towards the goal of 2.99 admissions per 100 patient months.

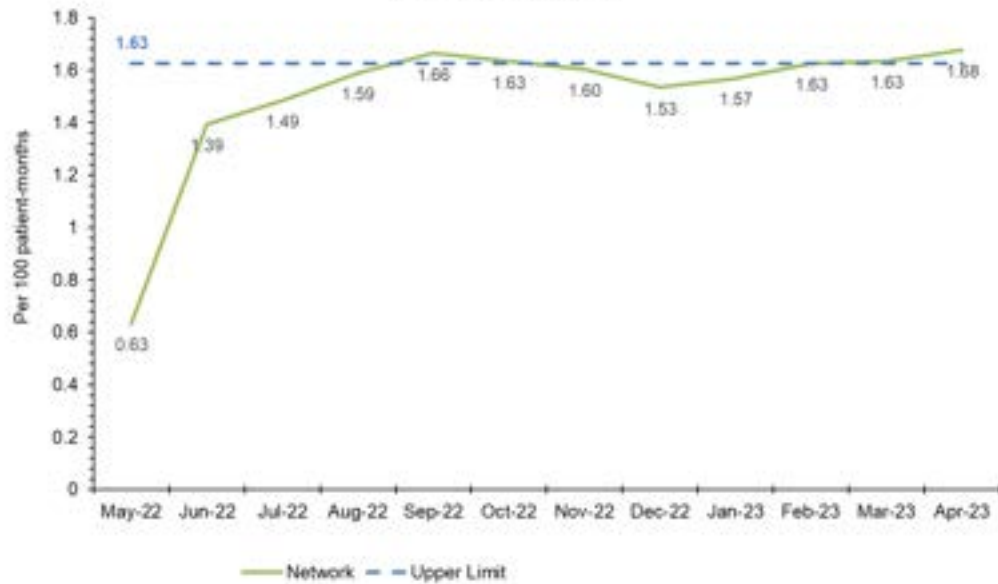
The Network's rate of outpatient emergency department visits was 1.68 visits per 100 patient months, working towards the goal of 1.63 admissions per 100 patient months.

The Network met the hospital 30-day unplanned readmissions goal with a rate of 9.33%.

The Network met the COVID-19 hospitalization reduction goal with 1110 ESRD patients hospitalized.



Network 11: Rate of Outpatient Emergency Department Visits per 100 Patient-months (lower values are better)
May 2022 - April 2023

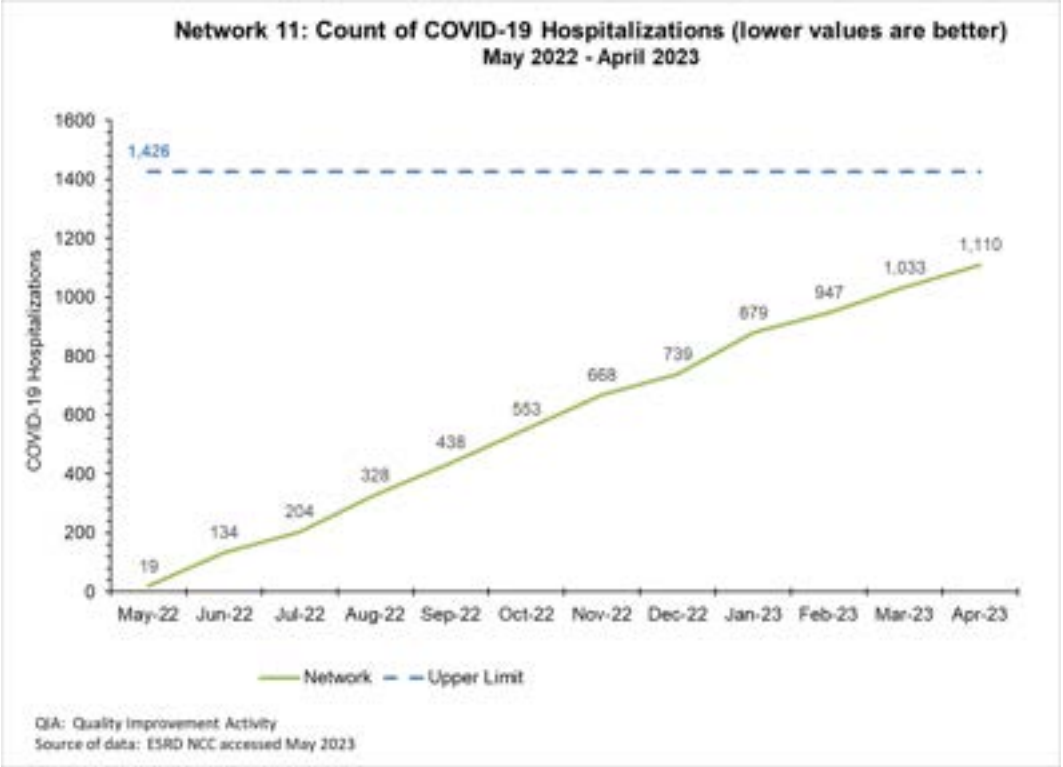


QIA: Quality Improvement Activity
Source of data: ESRD NCC accessed May 2023

Network 11: Percent of Hospital 30-Day Unplanned Readmissions (lower values are better)
May 2022 - April 2023



QIA: Quality Improvement Activity
Source of data: ESRD NCC accessed May 2023



Depression Treatment September 2022-April 2023

Network Goals

- Achieve a 6% increase in the percentage of patients, identified as having depression, who are treated by a mental health professional.

Project Participants

All dialysis providers in the Midwest Kidney Network service area participated in the project in 2022-2023.

Patient Engagement and Health Equity

Patients across the Network 11 service area were invited to be part of each Midwest Kidney Network project including the depression project. MKN's Consumer Committee members and the Behavioral Health Coalition helped shaped the direction of this project with their feedback and assistance in the development of educational tools and interventions. We continue to discuss the impact of and mitigation strategies for health equity and depression.

Interventions

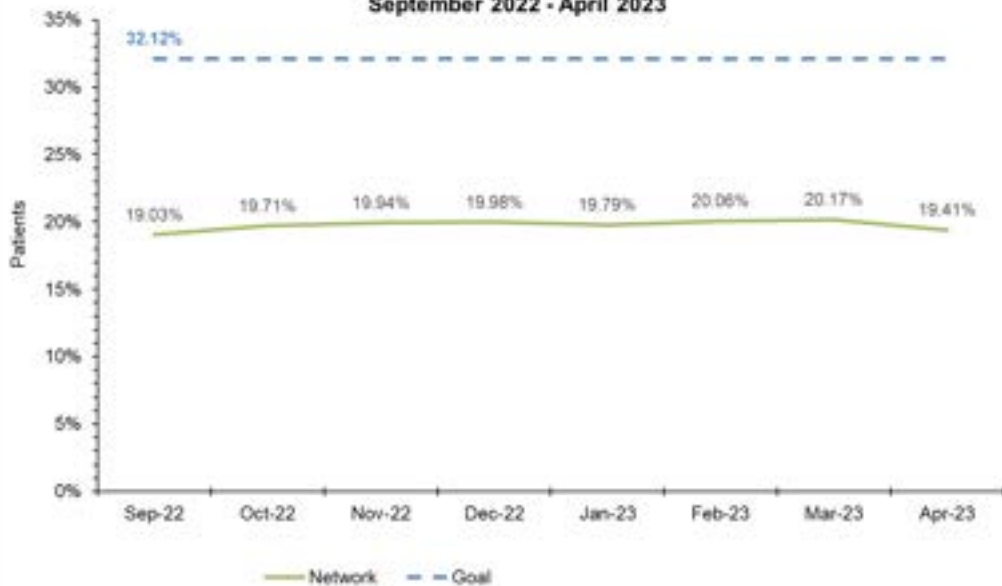
Midwest Kidney Network incorporated a variety of strategic interventions, including:

- Invited community stakeholders to be part of the MKN behavioral health coalition. This dynamic group included 6 renal social workers, a renal dietitian, a behavioral health therapist, a psychiatrist, and 2 patient SME's. The coalition helped develop a plan for this project and assisted with the development of resources.
- One social worker from the Network 11 region spoke on a national NCC Learning Action Network call on Depression Assessment, Treatment and Health Equity.
- The Network contacted facility social workers to assess barriers and what was needed at the facility level to assist with increasing assessment for depression and follow-up if a patient is depressed.
- Educational resources were developed and shared including a resource for the PHQ-9 assessment in various languages.

Results

In patients identified as screening positive for depression during the calendar year of 2022, 19.4% had a Medicare Part B outpatient visit claim with a diagnosis code listed in Appendix A.

Network 11: Percent of Patients, within the Subset of Patients Identified As Having Depression, Who Have Received Treatment By a Mental Health Professional
September 2022 - April 2023



QIA: Quality Improvement Activity
 Source of data: ESRD NCC accessed May 2023

Nursing Home (Blood Transfusion, Catheter Infection, and Peritonitis)

May 2022-April 2023

Network Goals

- Achieve a decrease in the rate of blood transfusions in ESRD patients dialyzing in a nursing home by at least 3.64%, from a baseline of 10.336 to a goal of less than 9.96 blood transfusions per 100 patient months.
- Achieve a decrease in the rate of hemodialysis catheter infections in dialysis patients receiving home dialysis within nursing homes by at least 7.36%, from a baseline of 0.146 to a goal of less than 0.135 hemodialysis catheter infections per 100 patient months.
- Achieve a decrease in the rate of incidence of peritonitis in dialysis patients receiving home dialysis within nursing homes by at least 3.64%, from a baseline of 6.723 to a goal of less than 6.48 peritonitis infections per 100 patient months.

Project Participants

All dialysis facilities in the Midwest Kidney Network service area which provide dialysis treatments within a nursing home setting participated in the project in 2022-2023.

Patient Engagement and Health Equity

Patients across the Network 11 service area shaped the direction of this project by sharing perspectives on the benefits of HHD & PD in the SNF setting.

Interventions

Midwest Kidney Network incorporated a variety of strategic interventions including:

- Convened technical assistance calls to discuss Root Cause Analysis on patients with anemia and history of transfusions, CVC infections and peritonitis.
- Promoted and supported dialysis staff education for SNF staff relating to infection control on access site care and signs symptoms of infection.
- Supported implementation of monthly audits on patient care, infection control practices and hand hygiene.
- Convened technical assistance calls with individual facilities highlighting transitions of care between the SNF and dialysis staff, as well as dialysis staff and hospital staff for continuity of care.
- Distributed education and discussed information relative to infection control for CVC site infections, bloodstream infections and peritonitis tools to units with patients in a skilled nursing facility (SNF) to decrease infections in patients dialyzing in that setting. These education sources came from a variety of sources including the CDC, ESRD NCC and best practices shared by other facilities or ESRD Networks.

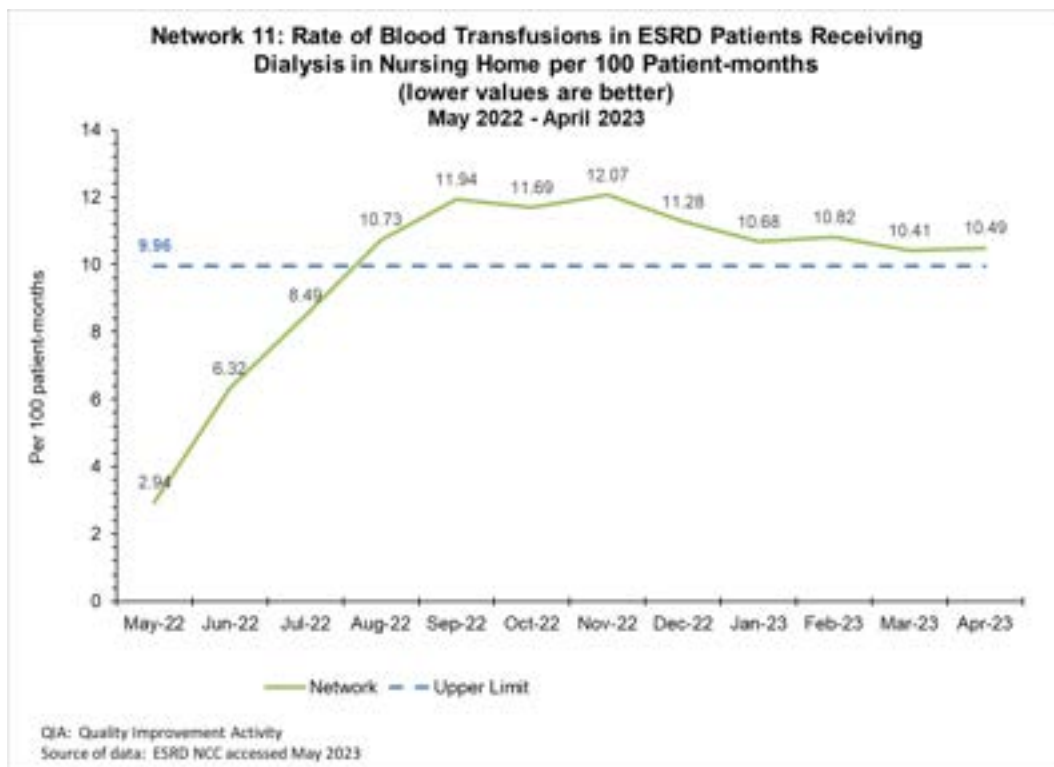
- Provided resources and discussion on anemia management, supporting interventions to improve anemia management protocols and communication in transitions of care related to transfusion.
- Discussed procedures and shared resources on tracking tools for iron stores and saturation as well as Hgb.
- Followed up with low performing facilities to discuss effectiveness of interventions and evaluate strategies for improvement to continue and those to abandon, adding new concepts and initiatives to improve progress toward goals.
- Network 11 provided resources to cohort facilities on peritonitis such as the ESRD National Coordinating Center (NCC) tools on preventing peritonitis.

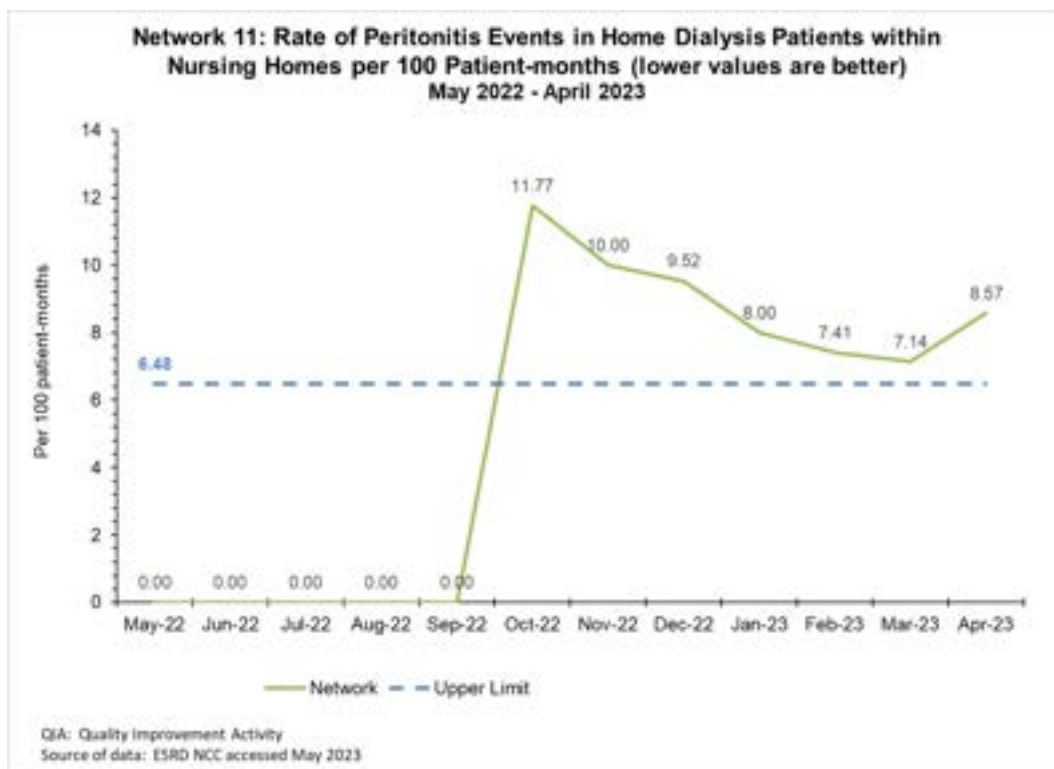
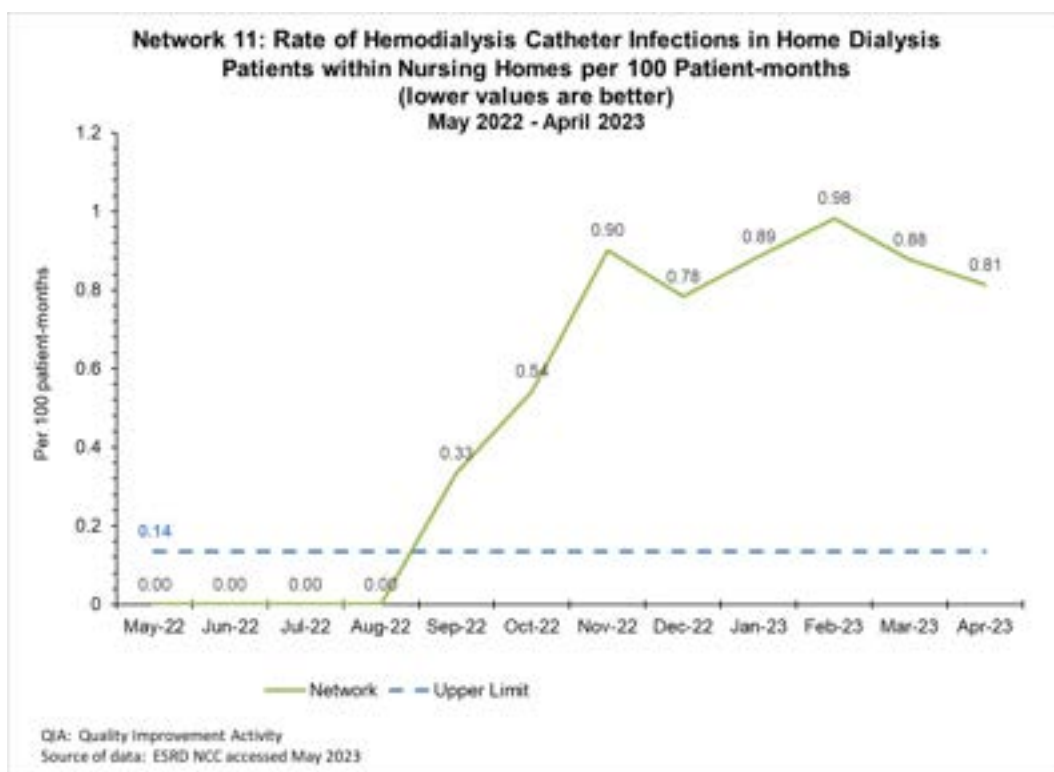
Results

From May 2022 to April 2023, Midwest Kidney Network had a rate of blood transfusions in ESRD patients dialyzing in a nursing home of 10.49, working towards the goal of 9.96 blood transfusions per 100 patient months.

The Network's rate of hemodialysis catheter infections in dialysis patients receiving home dialysis within nursing homes was 0.814, working towards a goal of 0.135 infections per 100 patient months.

The Network's rate of peritonitis in dialysis patients receiving home dialysis within nursing homes was 8.57, working towards a goal of 6.48 peritonitis infections per 100 patient months.





Telemedicine May 2022-April 2023

Network Goal

Achieve an increase in the number of rural ESRD patients using telemedicine to access a home modality in the Network service area by at least 3.98%. With a baseline of 368 patients using telemedicine to access a home modality, the goal for the Midwest Kidney Network was 383 patients.

Project Participants

The 2022-2023 project included all rural dialysis facilities providing home dialysis in the Midwest Kidney Network region.

Patient Engagement and Health Equity

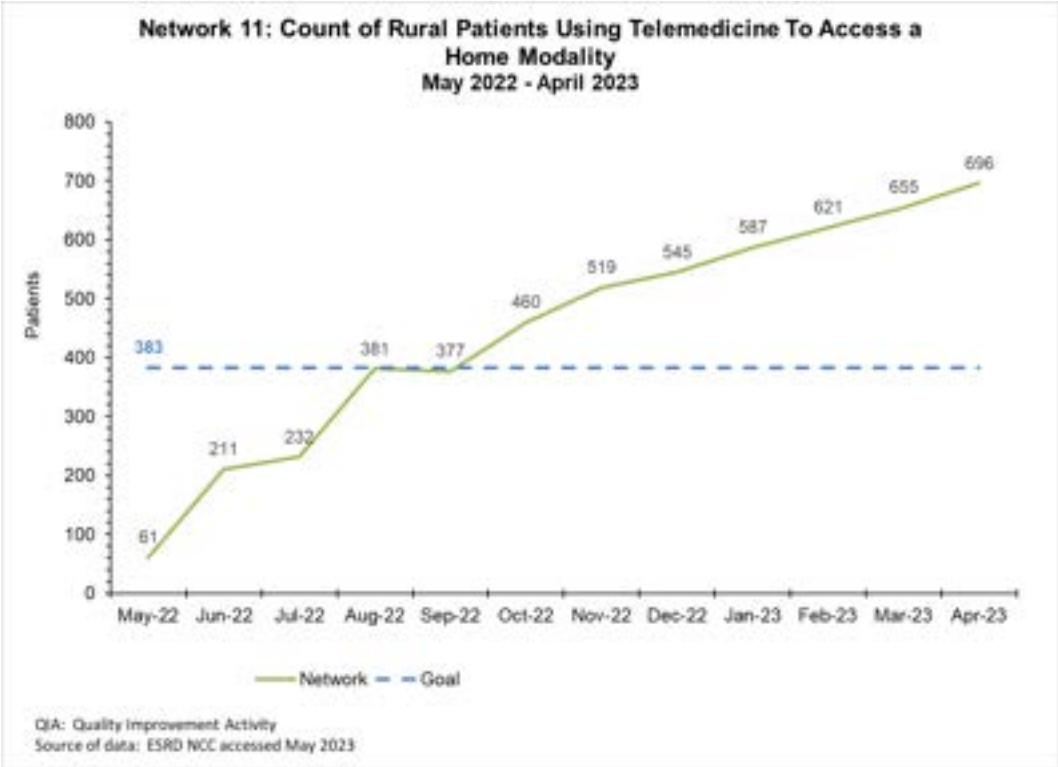
Patients across the Midwest Kidney Network service area shaped the direction of this project by supporting the development of educational tools and interventions. Patients helped identify key focus areas such as proximity to home dialysis unit, ability to provide transportation to the home unit and how to participate in telemedicine with their internet availability.

Interventions

- We distributed the ESRD NCC Telemedicine Toolkit to all home dialysis units.
- We convened technical assistance calls to a variety of facilities in all projects and incorporated the opportunity and availability of telehealth for patients in their area.
- We promoted the value of telemedicine for both urban and rural patients by sharing a [Telemedicine Tip Sheet](#). We shared this resource on the [Network 11 COVID-19 webpage](#) and via Facebook.

Results

From May 2022 to April 2023, 696 rural home dialysis patients in the Midwest Kidney Network region used telemedicine, surpassing our goal of 383. Many patients preferred to see their physician in person although many patients appreciated learning about this technology.



Pneumococcal Vaccinations (PCV13 & PPSV23) May 2022-April 2023

Network Goals

- Achieve an increase in the number of dialysis patients receiving a pneumococcal conjugate vaccination (PCV 13) in the Network service area by at least 20%.
- Ensure a minimum of 90% of dialysis patients receive a pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine (PPSV 23).
- Achieve an increase in the number of dialysis patients receiving a booster pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine (PPSV 23) in the Network service area by at least 10%.
- Ensure a minimum of 85% of dialysis patients over 65 years of age receive a pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine (PPSV 23).

Project Participants

The 2022-2023 project included all dialysis facilities in the Midwest Kidney Network region.

Patient Engagement and Health Equity

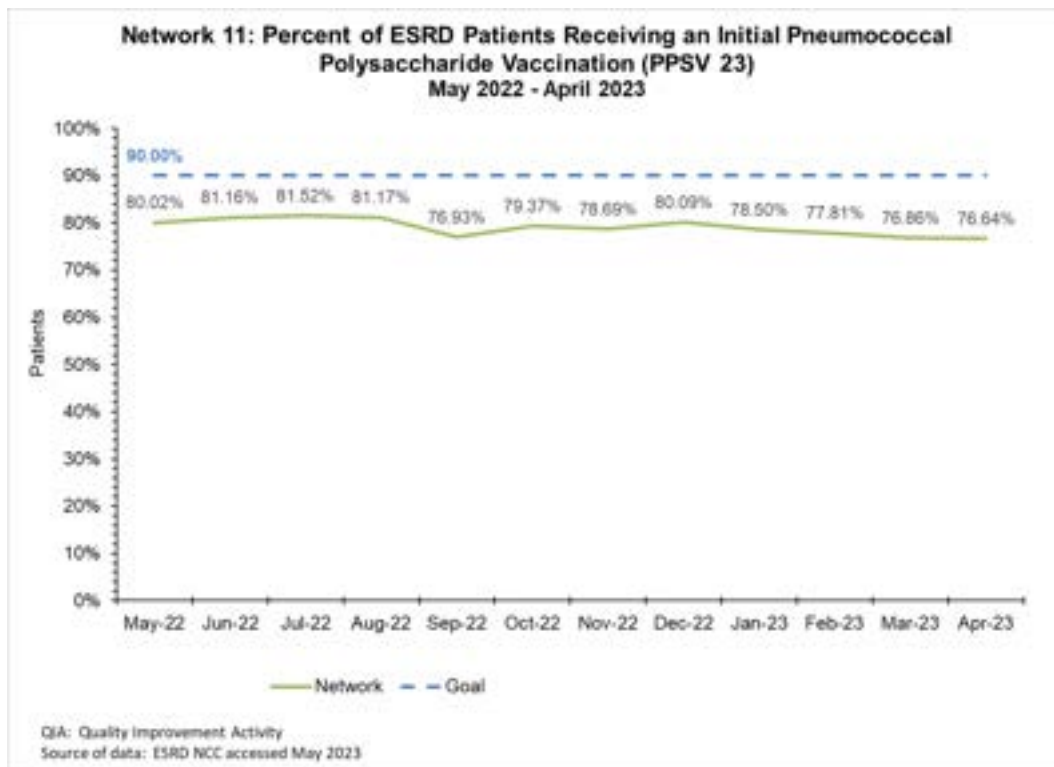
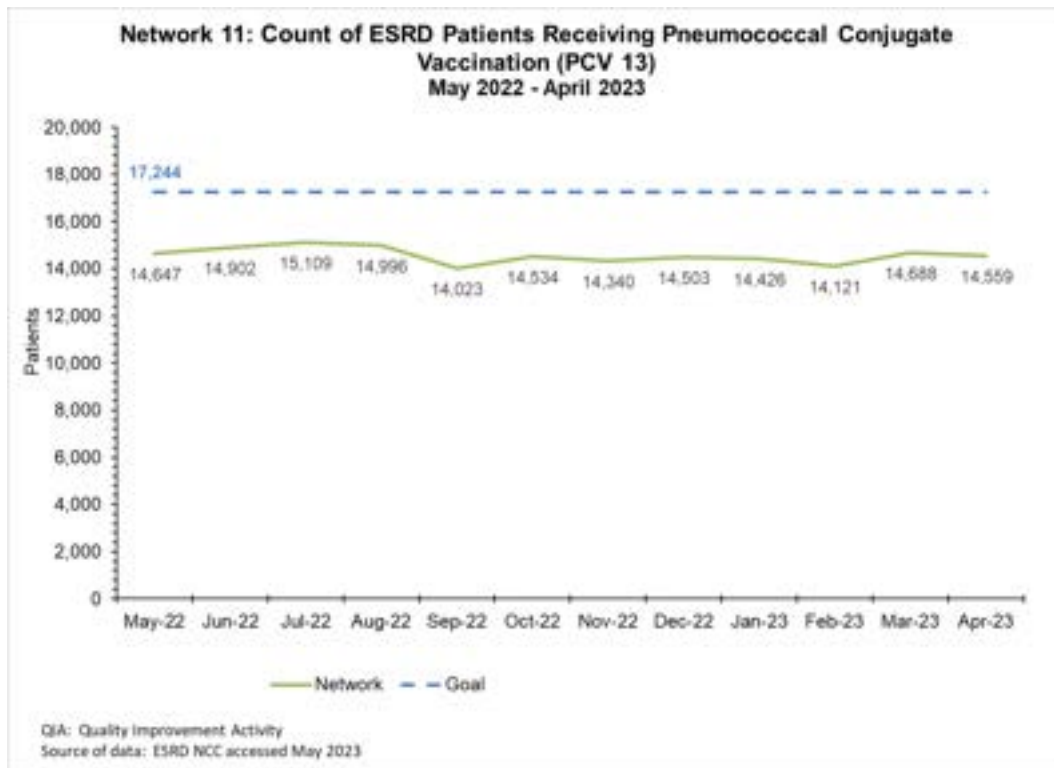
Patients across the Network 11 service area shaped the direction of this project by supporting the sharing of educational tools and developing strategic interventions. Patients helped identify key focus areas such as resources on disparities and were active members of the Midwest Kidney Network Advisory Group.

Interventions

- We began promoting pneumonia vaccinations in June and continued to reach-out to select facilities for discussion on vaccination management, tracking and follow-up.
- We provided resources on the current CDC recommendations on pneumococcal and flu vaccination, and updated information as available.
- Provided the most current vaccination recommendation for healthcare workers from OSHA.

Results

From May 2022 to April 2023, the number of patients in the Midwest Kidney Network region receiving a pneumococcal conjugate vaccination (PCV 13) progressed to 14,559 working toward the goal of 17,244. The percent of patients who received a pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine (PPSV 23) was 76.6%, working towards the goal of 90%. The number of patients who received a booster PPSV 23 reached 6849, exceeding the goal of 5206. The percent of patients over 65 years old who received the PPSV 23 was 70.4%, working towards the goal of 85%.

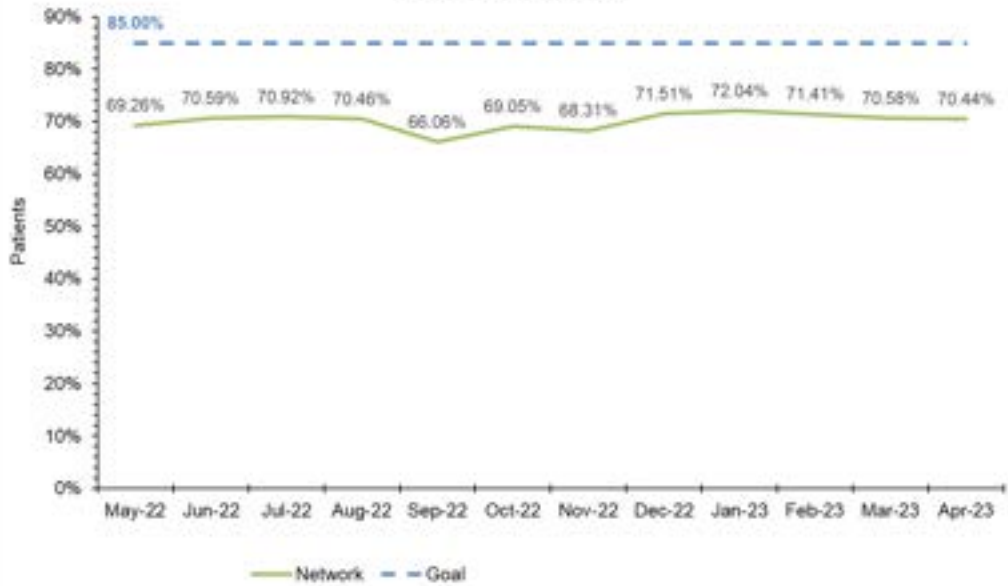


**Network 11: Percent of ESRD Patients Receiving a Booster Pneumococcal Polysaccharide Vaccination (PPSV 23)
May 2022 - April 2023**



QIA: Quality Improvement Activity
Source of data: ESRD NCC accessed May 2023

**Network 11: Percent of ESRD Patients Over 65 Years Old Receiving a Pneumococcal Polysaccharide Vaccination (PPSV 23)
May 2022 - April 2023**



QIA: Quality Improvement Activity
Source of data: ESRD NCC accessed May 2023

ESRD Network Recommendations

Recommendations for Sanctions

Midwest Kidney Network monitors ESRD facilities in this region using annually updated Midwest Kidney Network Recommended Treatment goals and other indicators. In 2022, the Network did not recommend any sanctions or alternative sanctions.

Recommendations to CMS for Additional Services or Facilities

Transportation continues to be a challenge and barrier for patients receiving dialysis. We would recommend CMS consider Medicare coverage for transportation services for dialysis patients that would extend beyond the coverage available through Medicaid. A few examples of specific challenges Network 11 identified during 1:1 technical assistance regarding transportation include:

- Transportation companies were starting to decline Medicare patients as the reimbursement rate had not increased relative to the cost of driver income, gas, etc. When a transportation company would decline a Medicare patient, there were often no other alternatives in rural communities.
- Transportation barriers for rural patients going for transplant work-up is also a challenge; the distance to the nearest transplant center often requires several hours of travel round trip.
- Patients on Medicaid (state specific issue) often are limited to transportation within their own county and the nearest dialysis facility/transplant center may be outside of the county where the patient resides.



ESRD Network COVID-19 Emergency Preparedness Intervention

Assessing Provider and Patient Needs

The Midwest Kidney Network continuously reviewed surge areas across the five-state region to identify facilities whose patient population showed increases in COVID-19 cases. The Network provided facility-specific technical assistance to these clinics, identified possible exposure sources, reviewed current interventions, and offered specific strategies for facilities and patients to improve safety and infection control in the clinic setting.

Collaboration with Stakeholders

Midwest Kidney Network hosted and facilitated regularly scheduled state-specific calls with a variety of stakeholders including state surveyors, state emergency preparedness staff, and representatives from dialysis providers. These calls provided a platform to discuss emerging state-specific COVID-19 issues and the potential impact on the provision of dialysis care.

Network 11 staff participated in COVID-19 update calls led by the Kidney Response Emergency Coalition (KCER) and CMS. We provided monthly data on COVID-19 cases, vaccinations, and technical assistance KCER and the ESRD NCC.

Network 11 staff actively participated in the Annual KCER Exercise, as well as facilitated the webinar platform and registration to host the exercise for involved Networks and stakeholders. Network staff attended the Annual KCER Summit in May 2023.

Resources Developed and Education Provided

Providing updated and accurate COVID-19 resources, guidance, and updates were a critical part of the Network's interaction with dialysis and kidney transplant providers in 2022-2023. In addition to providing this information to our stakeholders via email and social media, we developed a [dedicated webpage](#) on the Network website to house COVID-19 resources.

ESRD Network Significant Emergency Preparedness Intervention

During the time period of May 2022-April 2023, dialysis providers in the Midwest Kidney Network region experienced several non-COVID related emergencies such as inclement weather and power outages. Despite these challenges, dialysis providers experienced very few interruptions in service. In partnership with the Kidney Community Response (KCER) Coalition, we submitted one Emergency Status Situational Reports (ESSRs) for the time period May 2022 – April 2023.

- **August 15, 2022:** Midwest Kidney Network received a report of a water main break in St. Clair County, Michigan. Although there were 21 facilities in the impacted area, there was no interruption in dialysis services to patients.
- **August 30, 2022:** Monitored several dialysis facilities in the Detroit, Michigan area which experienced temporary power outages due to wind damage from severe thunderstorms.
- **December 13-23, 2022:** For several days, monitored several South Dakota facilities, one Minnesota facility, and one Michigan facility which experienced temporary closures due to a severe winter storm. One SD facility required ESSR due to 5-day closure and impact to patients. The Network collaborated with the South Dakota emergency preparedness team, department of transportation, and tribal emergency response to ensure rescue and coordinate resumption of dialysis services.
- **January - April 2023:** Due to several severe winter storms, Midwest Kidney Network remained in contact with affected facilities and monitored their status. Only temporary closures were reported. All patients were offered alternatives (other clinics and/or rescheduling at their home clinic) to receive their full treatments.

Additional Activities

- Distributed over 80 emergency preparedness guides for patients on dialysis by mail and through the Midwest Kidney Network website.
- Monitored facilities in flood-prone regions throughout Spring 2023 – no impact to patients, staff, or facilities.
- Monitored Minnesota facilities for potential impact from following March 2023 announcement of release of radioactive water into the ground around the Monticello Nuclear Power Plant site in November 2022.
- Updated Midwest Kidney Network's emergency preparedness plans, including provision of annual orientation and test of phone transfer to backup Network 8.
- Provided technical assistance to dialysis providers on emergency plans.
- Communicated all pertinent FDA MedWatch and recalls to Network facilities and medical directors, as well as posted to the Network website.

Acronym List Appendix

This appendix contains an [acronym list](#) created by the KPAC (Kidney Patient Advisory Council) of the National Forum of ESRD Networks. We are grateful to the KPAC for creating this list of acronyms to assist patients and stakeholders in the readability of this annual report. We appreciate the collaboration of the National Forum of ESRD Networks especially the KPAC.