



February Monthly Update

Alliance Activities

Progress Toward a Home Dialysis Patient Survey

On January 8th, the Alliance had a successful meeting with staff members from CMS's Center for Clinical Standards and Quality (CCSQ) to reiterate our strong support for the creation of a home dialysis patient experience survey. Dr. Matt Rivara, of the Kidney Research Institute, joined by phone to give an update on the status of his development of a patient experience tool, funded by Alliance member Satellite Healthcare, and discussed the potential for CMS to help bring the survey to the field.

The CCSQ staffers were very engaged during the meeting, and had many relevant questions about potential roll-out of a patient survey. The Alliance will continue to follow-up with CCSQ with more specific information, and will alert Alliance members with updates or if there are additional opportunities to interface on this issue.

A special thanks goes out to the American Society of Nephrology for initiating this meeting and playing an important leadership role.

Alliance Supports Home Dialysis in Medicare Advantage

The Alliance for Home Dialysis submitted comments to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) regarding 2019 policy and technical changes to the Medicare Advantage program. The comments included clinical benefits of both home hemodialysis and peritoneal dialysis and urged CMS to develop flexible MA plans to incentivize utilization of home dialysis. A copy of the comment letter is attached to this email.

Working Group Call on Alternative Payment Models

Thank you to RPA for presenting on the Accountability and Reimbursement Working Group Call on January 26th. The call focused on RPA's Alternative Payment Model, which was recommended for implementation by the PTAC in December. Their proposal is entitled, [Incident ESRD Clinical Episode Payment Model](#), and focuses on optimal transition for ESRD patients.

Alliance Steering Committee Meeting

The Alliance for Home Dialysis hosted the monthly Steering Committee Conference Call on January 29th to discuss upcoming regulatory meetings and priorities.

Alliance Meeting with PCORI

Alliance Staff and Steering Committee members met with the staff at the Patient Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) on January 31st. The meeting served as an opportunity to be sure they were familiar with the Alliance, our priorities, and discuss potential ways to partner. The meeting began with Alliance staff introducing the Alliance and giving a general overview of the benefits of home dialysis and

the differences between PD and HHD. Thank you to the presenters from NKF, AAKP, NxStage, ASN, and Rogosin Institute. PCORI appreciated the meeting and presentations. They offered some suggestions for partnership:

- Periodic meetings between the Alliance and PCORI
- Nominating people to one of PCORI's [advisory panels](#) that have openings. Applications and third-party nominations are due Friday, March 30, by 5:00 pm.
- Having Alliance members review the grants that PCORI offer

Alliance Member Activities

RPA Position Paper

Alliance member, Renal Physicians Association, released a policy paper entitled *Increasing Dialysis Options for Patients with End-Stage Renal Disease*. The paper is attached to this email. Some highlights include the cost effectiveness of more intensive hemodialysis and clinical benefits such as blood pressure control, hospitalization rates.

Home Dialysis in the News

Improved training for in-home therapy might increase use, spark interest in nephrology, Nephrology News & Issues: <https://www.nephrologynews.com/improved-training-home-therapy-might-increase-use-spark-interest-nephrology/>

Flying solo: Hemodialysis at home by yourself is safe and now legal, Nephrology News & Issues: <https://www.nephrologynews.com/flying-solo-hemodialysis-home-safe-now-legal/>