



## February Mid-Month Update

### Legislative Update

#### ***CHRONIC signed into law!***

After two years of diligent efforts by the Alliance and our members, the CHRONIC Care Act was signed into law! As you know, we supported CHRONIC because it authorizes a home dialysis patient's monthly clinical visits to be conducted via telehealth; it has been our top legislative priority for two years running. We strongly believe that this bill will ensure expanded access to home dialysis modalities for patients and increase the quality of care that these patients receive.

### Alliance Activities

#### ***Productive Meeting with Kidney Affinity Group***

Members of the Alliance's Steering Committee met with the Kidney Affinity Group (KAG) at the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) on Monday, February 5. The KAG is a staff driven unit, chaired by CMS staff, that strives to breakdown silos of information regarding kidney care across the federal government. It includes members from FDA, NIH, the VA, and CDC, among other agencies. The KAG's goal is ultimately to decrease kidney disease progression to ESRD and increase modality choice; they would like to continue talking with us about how to increase home dialysis utilization. The Alliance discussed benefits of PD and HHD, racial disparities, and the value of Kidney Disease Education (KDE), a Medicare benefit to educate patients with Chronic Kidney Disease about their condition and their treatment choices. The Alliance will be following up with a summary of our recommendations to increase utilization of KDE through legislative and regulatory action.

### Regulatory Update

#### ***Comment Opportunity - Kidney Health Initiative Roadmap***

We want Alliance members to be aware that the American Society for Nephrology (ASN) has a new initiative on which they are seeking feedback: The Kidney Health Initiative Roadmap for Innovative Alternatives to Renal Replacement Therapy (RRT) is open for comment. The original roadmap was presented at ASN's Kidney Week 2017 and stresses goals of incremental dialysis improvement, mechanical devices, biohybrid devices, and chimeras. The Alliance invites individual members to submit comments to their proposal.

A draft of the roadmap framework was presented at ASN's Kidney Week in November 2017. To view a summary graphic, go [here](#).

Please submit your comments by **Friday, March 9** using a survey they have provided [here](#).

### Home Dialysis in the News

Budget bill includes wins for kidney community, Nephrology News & Issues:  
<https://www.nephrologynews.com/budget-bill-includes-wins-kidney-community/>

Bedford Heights mom marks 17th year waiting for new kidney, Fox 8 Cleveland:  
<http://fox8.com/2018/02/14/bedford-heights-mom-marks-17th-year-waiting-for-new-kidney/>