



## March Monthly Update

### **Alliance Activities**

#### ***Alliance Provides CMS Clarification on Access Site Exams***

The Alliance convened a group of physicians from our membership at a meeting with the Hospital and Ambulatory Policy Group at the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to follow-up on CMS' request for more information regarding how telehealth can be used to examine home dialysis access sites. The meeting took place on February 21<sup>st</sup>. Dr. Srivatana of Rogosin and Dr. Gellens of Baxter presented on their clinical perspectives and experience for PD. Dr. Michael of ASN and Dr. Amedia of RPA discussed the access site exams from the home hemodialysis perspective. The Alliance will reiterate our comments in our comment letter during comment period for the Proposed Physician Fee Schedule in late June.

#### ***Productive Meeting with ESRD Networks NCC***

Members of the Alliance for Home Dialysis Steering Committee met with Traci Archibald and Renee Dupee of Center for Clinical Standards and Quality and the ESRD Networks National Coordinating Center on February 28<sup>th</sup>. Alliance staff presented an overview of the Alliance and the partnership between the Alliance, Baxter, and the NAACP for ACE Town Halls. FMCNA's Dr. Chatoth highlighted FMCNA's current engagement with ESRD networks, Suzanne Watnick of Northwest Kidney Centers discussed the NCC's goal of having 16% of the patient population on home dialysis by 2023, and Crystal Riley of Baxter highlighted racial disparities and barriers to uptake of home dialysis. The Alliance has been invited to join the Learning and Action Network and will update members when we have more details.

#### ***Alliance Steering Committee Meeting***

The Alliance for Home Dialysis hosted the monthly Steering Committee Conference Call on February 26<sup>th</sup> to discuss upcoming regulatory meetings and priorities.

### **Home Dialysis in the News**

Best Short Documentary: "Help Wanted: Alabama's Rural Health Care Crisis" Alabama Public Radio, Alabama Public Radio: <http://apr.org/post/best-short-documentary-help-wanted-alabamas-rural-health-care-crisis-alabama-public-radio#stream/0>

Patient Voices: Kidney Disease, New York Times: [https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2018/well/patient-voices-kidneydisease.html?rref=collection%2Fbyline%2Fkaren-barrow&action=click&contentCollection=undefined&region=stream&module=stream\\_unit&version=latest&contentPlacement=2&pgtype=collection](https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2018/well/patient-voices-kidneydisease.html?rref=collection%2Fbyline%2Fkaren-barrow&action=click&contentCollection=undefined&region=stream&module=stream_unit&version=latest&contentPlacement=2&pgtype=collection)