

Steps

1. Go to www.medicare.gov
2. Scroll down to the bottom of the page and click on "Compare Dialysis Facilities in Your Area".
3. Select what you want to search by.
4. Enter the requested information, (i.e. 64153 as a zip code).
5. Select the search distance.
6. Click "search", put a check mark in the units you want to see more information on, and click "Next Step".
7. Select the information you desire from the tabs at the top of the page.

Additional Resources

Many additional tools are included in the website for families of and persons on dialysis, pediatric individuals, persons not yet on dialysis and those awaiting transplantation. An explanation of why the quality measures chosen were chosen, in addition to things you as a consumer of dialysis services may want to consider.

Lastly, the resources tab provides a wealth of information on your Medicare benefits, getting adequate dialysis treatment, preparing for emergencies and living well on dialysis. If you do not have access to the internet, please call 800-444-9965 and someone in the Network office will be happy to send you the information or answer your questions.



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Promoting and facilitating high quality care standards for dialysis and kidney transplant patients in Iowa, Kansas, Missouri and Nebraska.



DIALYSIS FACILITY COMPARE

PATIENT EDUCATION SERIES

Dialysis Facility Compare

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services are interested in the quality of care you receive at your dialysis unit. They also want to share the quality indicators and information with persons receiving dialysis services. To assist with this goal, they host a website called "Dialysis Facility Compare". This website allows all individuals the ability to compare quality, search for other units in the area and see the options each facility has to offer. This brochure will walk you through the site and give some real life examples of its use.

INSIDE!

- ★ Overview of Website
- ★ Dialysis Facility Characteristics
- ★ Quality Measures
- ★ Resources Available

DIALYSIS FACILITY COMPARE

Overview of Website

Interested in traveling, vacationing, or simply want to know how your unit is performing compared to other dialysis units? Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) hosts Dialysis Facility Compare. The website allows anyone to review the characteristics (number of chairs, types of dialysis offered, corporate affiliation, Network Organization, State Survey Information) and the quality measures (anemia management, dialysis adequacy, etc) patients have received at the unit.

The address for the site is www.medicare.gov. A link is located at the bottom of the page on the right hand side. The additional information available on the site is listed in detail below.

Dialysis Facility Characteristics

The information in this section includes:

- The address and phone number for the unit.
- The date the facility was certified by Medicare.
- Whether or not the unit has shifts that start after 5 in the evening (for

those persons currently working).

- The number of chairs or treatment stations.
- The types of dialysis provided (i.e. hemodialysis, home hemodialysis, peritoneal dialysis).
- Whether the unit is for profit or non-profit.
- The name of the dialysis facility corporate organization.

Quality Measures

Quality information is displayed under the "Compare Quality" tab on the website. It includes information about:

- The percent of persons at the facility with a Urea Reduction Ratio (URR) of 65 or greater, also known as adequacy.
- The percentage of persons treated with erythropoietin and have a hematocrit greater than 33.
- Whether or not persons receiving treatment at that facility survive better than expected, as expected, or worse than expected.

Using DFC is as Easy as 1, 2, 3!

On DFC, you can locate a unit name, proximity or geographically.

By Name - If you want to find a unit by name, click on "Dialysis Facility Name"

By Proximity or Geography - If you want to find all dialysis units within a certain distance of "x, y, z", or within a certain area, click on "City" or "Zip Code", "State" or "County".

Choosing any of these options allows you to review any of the specific information about the dialysis unit and the quality they provide. Several additions have been made to the site over the last several years to make the site more user friendly and easier to search. This website is especially useful if you are traveling or planning a vacation and desire to make transient dialysis arrangements.

Another addition to DFC is the Patient Tools Section. This area provides information on questions to consider asking your doctor, dialysis staff, dietitian and social worker. It provides check lists for things to consider when changing dialysis facilities, infection control measures in the dialysis unit and facility policies and procedures.

The other useful piece of information contained on this website is your rights and responsibilities as a consumer of dialysis services.