



Heartland Headlines

A Newsletter for Renal Professionals

July 08

The Conditions for Coverage and Participation for ESRD facilities

The new ESRD Regulations were published April 15, 2008 and go into effect October 14, 2008. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) have adopted a much more patient centered and outcomes oriented approach that is reflected in the new Conditions. Elements that cover patient safety, clinical performance, data analysis, and infection control, have become central parts of the Conditions.

Have you read the new Conditions for Coverage? If not, you should – and very soon! You can download a copy of the Conditions from the Federal Register at:

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/CFCsAndCoPs/downloads/ESRDfinalrule0415.pdf>

Quality Improvement

Patient Safety

Patient Care Technicians (PCT) must now be certified. Facilities will be conforming to the Life Safety Code 2000 (fire code) regulations as contained in the Conditions for Coverage.

Clinical Performance and Data Analysis

The Quality Assessment and Performance Improvement (QAPI) program of the unit, which enhances the Continuous Quality Improvement activities, has increased expectations including performance, trending and tracking facility data, setting of timelines, and mandated oversight by the Medical Director.

Infection Control

An isolation room will be needed for hepatitis B positive patients. The new Conditions have also incorporated recommendations on infection control in dialysis centers from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Many more regulations related to reuse of dialyzers have been added to the Conditions.

There are many more changes than the ones briefly mentioned above. Take the time to study the new regulations so that your facility can be survey ready when the time comes! Visit the Network website for resources and tools. As always, feel free to contact us if we can answer questions or if you need technical assistance.

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

Mandatory Electronic Submission

With the publication of the new Conditions for Coverage on April 15, 2008, dialysis facilities must submit all patient data electronically starting February 1, 2009. CMS has created a web-based software called CrownWeb that CMS will provide at no cost to allow dialysis facilities to meet this requirement. A full description of features, requirements, and compliance deadlines will be mailed to all dialysis facilities in the near future. Listed below are some highlights.

CrownWeb is fully compliant with HIPAA and Privacy Act statutes and it's security controls meet applicable CMS Information Security Acceptable Risk Safeguards (ARS) policy, and is also based on National Institutes of Standards and Technology (NIST) requirements.

Dialysis facilities will be responsible for maintaining and updating facility personnel records, patient records, and generating 2728 Eligibility and 2746 Death Forms. Reports will be available to the facility are:

- Blank 2728, 2728 Instructions, as well as completed 2728s from your facility or the facility originating the form for your current patient.
- Blank 2746, 2746 Instructions, as well as completed 2746s from your facility or the facility originating the form for your current patient.
- Facility and Personnel report – permitted personnel can view a listing of all facilities and personnel in their scope. Facilities outside their scope will remain hidden.
- Patient Roster Report – a listing of all current patients for a facility, or those within a specified date range.
- Audit Reports including:
 - Audit Forms Report – a listing of personnel, patients, facilities, 2728 and/or 2746 forms and treatment changes for facilities.
 - Audit Additions Report - a list of all new/added records for personnel, patients, facilities, 2728 and/or 2746 forms and treatment changes entered into CrownWeb by your facility.
 - Audit Deletions Report – a list of all personnel, patients, facilities, 2728 forms, or 2746 forms deleted from CrownWeb by your facility.

System requirements for this web-based software are minimal and are as follows:

	Minimum	Suggested
Internet Browser	IE 6.0	IE 6.0 or Later
Operating System	Windows 98 SE2	Windows 2000 or XP
Processor Speed	Pentium (or equivalent) 66 megahertz (MHz)	Pentium 4 (or equivalent) 1.8 gigahertz (GHz) or faster
Available RAM	64 megabytes (MB)	256 megabytes (MB)
Document Viewer	Adobe Acrobat Reader 6	Adobe Acrobat Reader 6+
Internet Connection	56 KBps dial-up	High speed (DSL, cable, or faster)

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CMS will provide training on CrownWeb in two venues: Face-to-face training at a variety of locations across the United States, and online training available via a central website 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. CMS will provide the training at no cost to the facility, however travel costs incurred by the facility for face-to-face training will not be reimbursed. Training will start in December 2008 and end in February 2009. The network believes that facilities will benefit most by sending one or two people to the face-to-face sessions, and then act as resources to other facility personnel who will take the web-based training.

User enrollment runs from October 2008 to December 2009. The network will send out application forms for the role of "Facility Administrator". The Facility Administrator role in CrownWeb allows that person at the facility to enter any remaining staff that needs access to CrownWeb. The network is responsible for entering the Facility Administrator users into CrownWeb. As the date approaches, applications forms will be mailed to the facilities. The application form must be notarized.

While you may have little to no cost in meeting the system requirements, there may be costs associated with the form of training you chose, as well as other costs related to other sections of the new Conditions for Coverage. We encourage you to start planning for those costs now.

Heartland Kidney Network will cease accepting patient data for both paper and Vision submissions after the first week of January 2009. Transplant units will continue to send paper forms to the network. This will allow us to complete all entry of data and the Annual Facility Survey before our systems are turned off. Heartland Kidney Network will also have access to CrownWeb, as we will continue to enter data for transplant units.

Beneficiaries will benefit by the following updates in the rule:

- ❑ Adopts updated Centers for Disease Prevention and Control (CDC) guidelines for hemodialysis facilities to increase patient infection control procedures.
- ❑ Adopts updated American Association for Medical Instrumentation (AAMI) water quality guidelines to promote safer water for dialysis use.
- ❑ Requires defibrillators in every dialysis facility, to allow facility staff to respond rapidly to individuals that may be having a heart attack.
- ❑ Incorporates sections of the 2000 Life Safety Code, which upgrades fire safety standards.
- ❑ Expands patient rights protections, including:
 - ❑ A requirement to inform beneficiaries of their right to have advance directives,
 - ❑ A facility-level grievance process that explains how a facility must respond to a patient's grievance, and
 - ❑ A policy that provides a 30-day written notice to the patient before a facility can involuntarily discharge a patient.
- ❑ Requires a comprehensive patient assessment based on current medical practices and the patient's unique needs.
- ❑ Requires a personalized patient plan of care, based on current standards of care
- ❑ A facility-level quality assurance and performance improvement (QAPI) program to demonstrate how the facility will improve the quality of care it provides to patients.
- ❑ Minimum qualifications and training requirements for patient care technicians.
- ❑ Increases Medical Director involvement in the outcomes of the QAPI program and involuntary transfers or discharges.

The final rule meets CMS's overall goal of protecting patient safety, enhancing ongoing quality improvement, and improving patients' experience receiving dialysis services.

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**Stay in Touch
The Heartland Kidney Network
Is Here For YOU!!**

Contact numbers during normal business
hours are: 1-800-444-9965 or
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Postage

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and kidney transplant patients in Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, and Nebraska.**