

Join the Movement for Better Patient Safety: Professional & Patient Surveys

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DESCRIPTION

During the past year the Forum, Renal Physicians Association, American Association of Kidney Patients, and the Kidney and Urology Foundation of America, Inc. have been working on the development of an online professional survey that would provide better understanding of the scope and experience of medical errors within the dialysis facility. This project is linked with the CMS special safety project awarded to ESRD Network of New England (Network # 1) because the patient safety survey is a companion project with similar safety questions focused on patient experiences. The launching of the professional and patient survey was postponed because the project steering committee felt the disaster events of the late 2005 provided an additional opportunity to learn about safety issues when systems are in crisis.

PURPOSE & GOALS

The Health & Safety Survey was launched on February 1, 2006. This is an on-line survey for health professionals who care for ESRD patients. This survey has been designed to gain a better understanding of the scope and frequency of preventable medical errors in the treatment of hemodialysis patients with the ultimate goal of reducing the occurrence of such errors. Physician, nurses, technicians, dieticians, dialysis center administrators and other professionals are invited to register online at www.healthandsafetysurvey.com. Conducted by an independent research firm, the survey can be completed in about 15 minutes and all survey responses are confidential. The professional survey seeks input from individuals who work in hemodialysis centers and interact directly with hemodialysis patients. This survey was developed in association with the Forum of ESRD Networks, the AAKP, the RPA, and KUFA, and in cooperation with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.

The results from this professional survey, combined with a survey of end stage renal disease (ESRD) patients (to be conducted in early 2006), will inform

development of an online clearinghouse of best practices in ESRD as well as an educational campaign of ESRD leadership. Both the clearinghouse and campaign seek to empower health professionals to reduce medical errors and stimulate a culture of safety within ESRD. According to the Institute of Medicine, it is estimated that up to 98,000 Americans die each year as a result of preventable medical errors. The cost associated with these errors in lost income, disability, and health care costs is estimated as much as \$29 billion annually.

METHODOLOGY

A registration site for professionals interested in taking their survey has been established. You can access the survey through the Forum website at www.esrdnetworks.org or www.healthandsafetysurvey.com. The survey was launched on February 1, 2006. All Networks helped to promote this activity and to get professionals to register. A variety of promotional information was developed and subsequently incorporated on the Forum and Network websites, at local meetings, and in newsletters. The patient safety survey will be launched in the Spring 2006.

RECOMMENDATIONS

All Networks support participation in the professional and patient health and safety surveys.