



Net Link



Stay Connected with Network 14!

June 2008

Keep up with what's *new*, what's *due* & what's *upcoming*

End Stage Renal Disease Network of Texas, Inc. (#14)

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PLEASE POST FOR ALL STAFF! Important information from Network 14

Network #14 Updates:

CMS to Conduct Spring 2008 LIS Outreach Campaign

Today, CMS is launching a 2008 Spring LIS Campaign to increase awareness and applications submitted to SSA for the Medicare Part D low-income subsidy (LIS). This special outreach will be aimed at individuals without Medicare Part D coverage who may potentially qualify for the LIS. For those who qualify, Medicare can pay 75% or more of their prescription drug costs. Most will get 95% covered. This can mean big savings for people who are paying for all their drug costs out of pocket. CMS efforts focus on targeted areas where the new data indicate a high level of potentially eligible beneficiaries. Updated CMS LIS data and outreach materials are now available in the 2008 LIS Outreach Toolkit located at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/Partnerships/Toolkits/itemdetail.asp?itemID=CMS1188820>

CMS is hosting a LIS Partner Summit meeting in Washington, D.C. to share outreach plans and ideas to effectively engage individuals who may qualify for the extra help. This summit is being recorded and will be available on cms.hhs.gov in the near future. CMS' campaign will be conducted from May to July and will coincide with SSA's Mother's Day and Father's Day outreach campaigns. Please join CMS their efforts to reach out to people with Medicare and their family members or caregivers to promote the availability of this extra help and increase the number of LIS applications submitted to SSA for processing.

Data Bytes

Helpful tips and information from the Network Data Department



The Network would like to remind all facilities that Missing Forms reports are automatically generated and mailed out on a monthly basis. You may receive a notice of a missing form before the 45 or 30-day deadline. This notice is simply a reminder of the forms that are currently due from your facility and are also used as a form of quality improvement within the Network to ensure timely submission of all required Medicare forms. Please also make an effort to read the "tips" that are provided within your Missing Forms report, which include frequently asked questions that you may have. Thanks to all for your continued hard work and dedication to the ESRD program.

Disaster/Emergency Preparedness Update:

Please remember to update your information on EMSystem on a regular basis...Reminders are sent to all facility contacts on the 1st of each month, whether you have updated or not. Please disregard the reminder if you have already updated your information. Make sure you download the TEEC Policy and Procedures Manual that will be attached to the June alert. If you need assistance with your access or your password reset, please contact Geli Brown, Outreach Coordinator at gbrown@nw14.esrd.net.

QI Update: To assist facilities in reviewing and tracking Ambulance Transfers to the Hospital from the Dialysis Facility (as recommended in the May 7, 2008 NW #14 Fax Blast), a Run Chart was added to the NW #14 2007 Hemodialysis (HD) Specific Run Charts. You can download the 2007 HD Specific Run Charts from the NW #14 website at www.esrdnetwork.org - Professionals - Quality Improvement.

The Network is looking for a few good facilities...

We need 27 facilities that are interested in voluntarily working with the Network to review and critique materials that will be sent out state-wide. The materials would be sent to your facility for staff and/or patients to review. A short evaluation about the usefulness of the materials would need to be filled out and returned to the Network office. The evaluation would also have room to add comments, suggestions or other helpful information for the Network staff to consider prior to sending out the materials. This type of feedback is critical to the work the Network will be doing and your opinion matters to us. If you are interested in becoming one of the chosen facilities, please call or email Geli Brown, Outreach Coordinator at 469-916-3800 or gbrown@nw14.esrd.net

Addressing Conflict:

Start with Decreasing Dialysis Patient Provider Conflict (DPC) Staff In-Services

The ESRD Network of Texas, Inc. (Network #14) provides technical assistance in the resolution of patient, provider, and/or facility complaints and grievances by providing education, facilitating solutions, and/or making referrals. Concerns may be communicated to the Network by phone, fax or e-mail. No PII (Personal Identifiable Information), including patient name, date of birth and Social Security number, is permitted on any email communication per CMS regulations.

Providers should call Patient Services at
469-916-3808

Patients, family and friends should call
Patient Services at
877-886-4435

Attention Social Workers:

Information packets will be mailed to all facilities within the first two weeks of June and addressed to the attention of the Network Patient Representative (NPR) or current Patient Representative. Please take a few minutes to assist the facility NPR in filling out and returning the fax back form and evaluation to the Network office. The packets will be sent to the facility addressed to the NPR c/o the social worker. If your facility does not currently have an NPR, use this opportunity to designate or nominate a patient to fill this role in your facility. Having an NPR is a requirement in the annual Network Goals & Objectives sent out to every facility annually. Listing your NPR is also part of the Facility Roster form that must be filled out and turned in to the Network office, by June 25. The Network will be utilizing the NPRs more often to obtain feedback and suggestions on ways to improve our outreach throughout all regions of Texas.



Network 14 June 2008 Calendar



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Summer Vacation						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	May PAR's Due EMSsystem update due	 Non-LDO May FF data due	10	11	12	13
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Father's Day 	Event Validation's Due			TEEC meeting in San Antonio 12:30-3:30pm	Missing Forms Due First Day of Summer	 
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
			Facility Roster updates due		Missing Forms Sent	
29	30					



Get a copy of the PAR rules from our website: www.esrdnetwork.org