



# Net Link



## Stay Connected with Network 14!

June 2009

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:

#### Data Bytes

Helpful tips and information from the Network Data Department



Need patient IDNUMS? You can request this information from Jennie Conley, Data Specialist at (469)916-3805. If requesting 10 or more IDNUMS, please fax a cover page with your Medicare Provider Number and a statement requesting IDNUMS to (972)503-3219. Upon receipt of the request, we will fax your current census report with IDNUMS listed for each patient currently in your facility. If less than 10 are needed, please FAX the patient names, DOBs and SSNs along with a statement requesting IDNUMS and your request will be processed ASAP. Please keep in mind that IDNUMS are not assigned until we receive a patient's information via 2728 or PAR. If you have a patient that recently started treatment, make sure you have submitted this information to the Network before requesting the IDNUM. If you need to order wrist bands for your patients please go to: <http://www.texasemergencyesrd.org/pdf/teec-wristband-mailer.pdf> and follow the instructions.

The Information Management Department would also like to remind you of the CROWNWeb WebEx trainings that are scheduled for June 9-11, 2009. To register or get more information go to [www.projectcrownweb.org](http://www.projectcrownweb.org) and click on 'Register for WebEx Trainings' on the left-hand menu. We strongly encourage all facility personnel that will be using CROWNWeb to go through all 3 days of training.

**Please fill out the attached feedback scan and let us know what you think! We really do want to know...**

### Attention Facility Social Worker

The Network staff is in need of your assistance. During the month of April the Network mailed copies of the Special Edition Lone Star Newsletter for patients and families to all dialysis and transplant facilities. Included in the packet was a cover letter addressed to your facility's Network Patient Representative (NPR) attached to a copy of the newsletter with a short questionnaire. The NPR was asked to fax back the questionnaire and provide feedback to the Network about the Lone Star Newsletter. As of today, the Network has had a very poor response to the questionnaire from the NPR's; therefore please ask your facility NPR if they have sent their feedback questionnaire to the Network. If not, please assist them to do so by providing a fax machine they could use to send in their feedback. PLEASE NOTE: The cover letter provided an incorrect fax number however the fax number on the questionnaire is correct. The correct fax number is 972-996-0396. Thank you so much.

### Have You Talked to Your Patients about End of Life Choices?

Hospice is for the family as well as for the patient. Hospice assists in getting the family financially stable with information on available resources. Comfort care, Pastoral care, Personal care, and medication management are all part of Hospice care whether at home or in a center. Early intervention with Hospice is encouraged because counseling and support on end of life issues can mean a great deal to the family as well as to the patient. Choice is always possible for either at home hospice or in a care center. Which type of treatment is chosen is not based on the amount of care needed. Further information or questions can be addressed by the Patient Services Coordinator Marigay Warriner, LMSW, she will be happy to take your calls.

## ESRD Network #14 QI NEWS & ALERTS

### CMS Conditions for Coverage Questions

Network #14 has received many questions from the Texas nephrology community about the CMS Conditions for Coverage that were implemented on October 14, 2008. CMS has acknowledged that they are also receiving many questions about the Conditions for Coverage. To ensure that CMS receives your request for information and provides you with a response, they are requesting that questions, clarifications or comments be submitted via email. Please send your questions, clarifications, or comments about the CMS Conditions for Coverage to: [ESRDSurvey@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:ESRDSurvey@cms.hhs.gov)

### Status of Texas Department of State Health Services ESRD Facility Proposed Licensing Rules

Stakeholders were notified on May 18, 2009, that the proposed ESRD rules will be taken to the November DSHS Council meeting scheduled for November 12, 2009. The meeting will be held at the DSHS main campus located at 1100 West 49<sup>th</sup> Street, in Austin, Texas.

### CMS Conditions for Coverage Requirements for Blood Pressure and Fluid Management in Patients



#### **Surveyor Sighting**

**Blood Pressure and Fluid Management** are serious issues which can significantly impact the health and well-being of patients on dialysis. Recognizing this, the new CMS Conditions for Coverage (CfC) have incorporated specific requirements for addressing Blood Pressure and Fluid Management in the dialysis facility and ***CMS Surveyors are citing facilities for failure to adequately monitor and manage Blood Pressure and Fluid Balance.*** Assess your facility's readiness for survey with these three questions:

- How knowledgeable is our facility about these new requirements?
- Are nephrologists, nurses and PCTs familiar with the new "V" Tags for Blood Pressure and Fluid Management?
- Is our facility addressing these intra-dialytic complications and documenting interventions adequately?

To ensure that your facility is prepared - we recommend the following actions:

1. Ask your QAPI team to view the new Hema-metrics video that specifically addresses the CfC requirements for Blood Pressure and Fluid Management. To access and view the video on the Hema-metrics website:
  - a) Type in this URL:  
<http://www.hemametrics.com/main.jsp?page=pressReleaseContent.jsp&Id=38&flag=true>
  - b) Click on: ***Section 1 - Summary of new CMS Conditions of Coverage for Fluid Management***
2. Review the Interpretive Guidelines for the Conditions for Coverage in your facility QAPI meeting to assess compliance with the CfC requirements for Blood Pressure and Fluid Management.
3. Utilize the Hema-metrics video as an educational tool for your clinical personnel (nurses and technicians), nephrologists, medical directors and facility administrators. This is a great opportunity to address a very challenging intra-dialytic complication!

### Preparation of Normal Saline Syringes from Patient Saline Bag



#### ***Surveyor Sighting***

The New Conditions for Coverage have brought many changes to the dialysis community. A significant change that you may not be aware of is a new CMS Conditions for Coverage Infection Control requirement that has been cited in several NW #14 facilities. According to this requirement, it is no longer acceptable practice to “draw up” (i.e., prepare) normal saline syringes at the chair side from a patient’s saline bag. To ensure compliance with the new Conditions for Coverage Infection Control requirement, we recommend your QAPI team review all facility policies and procedures that include preparing normal saline syringes. Remember - according to the new Conditions for Coverage:

- ❖ Staff should **not** fill Normal Saline syringes from the bag of Normal Saline hanging on the patient’s machine for any reason (i.e., catheter care, flushing needles, etc.).
- ❖ Staff should **not** use **one common bag** of Normal Saline in the medication area to fill Normal Saline syringes for patient care activities.
- ❖ If your facility uses Normal Saline vials, follow the single use and multi-dose vial guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).



# Network 14 June 2009 Calendar



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 <p><b>June 1</b> is the official beginning of the Atlantic Hurricane Season... Please make sure you have updated your facility emergency manuals and begin educating your patients and staff on your facility's emergency plan.</p>						
1	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8 May PAR's Due  EMSystem update due	9	10  Non-LDO May FF data due	11 TEEC meeting at St. Joseph's in Bryan, Texas 1pm -3pm	12	13
14 Flag Day 	15	16	17	18	19 Missing Forms Due  Event Validation's Due	20
21 Father's Day 	22	23	24	25	26 Missing Forms Sent	27
28	29	30				

**Summer Vacation**



First Day of Summer is June 21st!



6624

**ESRD NETWORK OF TEXAS, INC.  
JUNE 2009 NETLINK EVALUATION**

- The information learned will be used to improve the quality of our monthly newsletter
- **Survey completion is voluntary, but much appreciated!**
- Identity of respondents if provided, will be kept confidential
- Estimated completion time for this survey is less than 5 minutes

**FAX to 972-996-0396 DO NOT use any other fax number.**

**Choose only 1 bubble unless designated otherwise. Completely fill in the bubble. (for example ● )**

- Discipline:**
- |  |                                     |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> Physician        | <input type="radio"/> RD            |
| <input type="radio"/> RN               | <input type="radio"/> PCT           |
| <input type="radio"/> RN-Administrator | <input type="radio"/> Administrator |
| <input type="radio"/> LVN              | <input type="radio"/> Other         |
| <input type="radio"/> SW               |                                     |

**1. Receipt of the Monthly NetLink**

- I did receive a copy of the monthly NetLink
- I did not receive a copy of the monthly NetLink
- I know how to access a copy of the monthly NetLink from the Network website

**2. Format of the monthly NetLink - The monthly NetLink is too visually:**

- Too overwhelming
- Boring
- Acceptable

**3. Content of the monthly NetLink**

- |   |                           |                          |                           |
|---|---------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| Helpful to me professionally                | <input type="radio"/> Yes | <input type="radio"/> No | <input type="radio"/> N/A |
| Current information and resources included  | <input type="radio"/> Yes | <input type="radio"/> No | <input type="radio"/> N/A |
| New information and resources for me to use | <input type="radio"/> Yes | <input type="radio"/> No | <input type="radio"/> N/A |

**4. What future topics would you like to see covered in the monthly NetLink?**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="radio"/> Tips on CrownWeb                | <input type="radio"/> Tips for dealing with disruptive patients |
| <input type="radio"/> Modality options                | <input type="radio"/> End of Life/Advance Care Planning         |
| <input type="radio"/> Website navigation              | <input type="radio"/> Improving quality of life for patients    |
| <input type="radio"/> EMSystem navigation             | <input type="radio"/> Tips to improve quality of care           |
| <input type="radio"/> Tips to improve Vascular Access |   |

**5. The information I use the most from NetLink is:**

- Articles
- Calendar

**6. If you have any suggestions regarding how we could improve the monthly NetLink, please email Geli Brown at [gbrown@nw14.esrd.net](mailto:gbrown@nw14.esrd.net)**

**THANK YOU for your input!**