



# Net Link



## Stay Connected with Network 14!

November 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:

TrailBlazerSM is sharing the following information received from CMS' Education Resource Listservs.

Flu Shot Reminder - Flu Season Is Coming! It's not too early to start vaccinating as soon as you receive vaccine. Encourage your patients to get a flu shot as it is still their best defense against the influenza virus. (Medicare provides coverage of the flu vaccine without any out-of-pocket costs to the Medicare patient. No deductible or copayment/coinsurance applies.) And don't forget, health care workers also need to protect themselves. Get your flu shot - not the flu. Remember - Influenza vaccine plus its administration are covered Part B benefits. Note that influenza vaccine is not a Part D-covered drug.

For information about Medicare's coverage of the influenza virus vaccine and its administration as well as related educational resources for health care professionals and their staff, please go to [http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNProducts/Downloads/flu\\_products.pdf](http://www.cms.hhs.gov/MLNProducts/Downloads/flu_products.pdf) on the CMS Web site.

To order, free of charge, a quick reference chart on Medicare Part B Immunization Billing, go to [http://cms.meridianksi.com/kc/main/kc\\_frame.asp?kc\\_ident=kc0001&loc=5](http://cms.meridianksi.com/kc/main/kc_frame.asp?kc_ident=kc0001&loc=5) on the CMS Web site. (200809-19)

### Attention Social Workers:

A study looking at Medicare beneficiaries enrolled in the prescription drug program showed that many beneficiaries did not take their necessary medications after they reached the "doughnut hole" coverage gap. A report completed in August showed that 26% of Medicare beneficiaries, which is about 3.4 million people, reached the coverage gap in 2007. The report also showed that about 15% of the enrollees of the program who took medications to treat chronic diseases did not take their medications after they reached the coverage gap.

According to experts, High drug costs are a barrier, but this is the first time we're seeing it documented so plainly, which raises concerns about the consequences for people with serious chronic conditions. There is a growing recognition that the doughnut hole is impairing people's access to medications.

As the open enrollment period approaches, please take a few minutes to speak with your patients about their drug program. Review their existing program and verify that it will continue to meet their prescription needs in 2009. If a patient does not have a current plan chosen please assist them to select the most effective plan to best meet their prescription needs.

### Data Bytes:

This is a friendly reminder that Crown Web will be effective on 2/1/2008! Be sure to get your CAS account forms completed and submitted to the Network beginning 12/1/2008. We encourage each facility to submit them as soon as they are complete so that we may audit the forms for any errors they may have. The Network will be responsible for setting up all Security Administrator's (SA) within your facility so that then your SA can set up all of your facility users in LMS. Also, keep in mind that the Network will not be receiving any 2728 or 2746 forms after 12/31/2008. So, please be mindful of any outstanding or current forms that need to be entered into the ESRD database. Thanks to all for your cooperation during this transition.

**Also, DO NOT email patient information to the Network office. ALL OFFENSES MUST be reported CMS.** If you have questions or concerns about this policy please contact the Network Data Department 972-503-3215 ext. 326 or ext. 323.

## **Attention Administrators and Social Workers:**

### **New Conditions of Coverage (C of C), DPC and the ESRD Network of Texas.**

What do they have in common?.....

The answer – all three were put into place to provide ESRD patients with the best health care possible. As of October 14, 2008, under the new C of C, **before a unit can involuntarily dismiss a patient** they will be required to do the following:

- Contact the Network and Department of State Health Services (DSHS) to inform them of the discharge.
- The Medical Director must approve the dismissal.
- Documentation of attempts to place the patient should be in the medical record.
  - a list of area clinics; their addresses and phone numbers should be given to the patient.

***Starting immediately***, upon contacting the Network, the following will be requested:

- Documentation of the interventions by the interdisciplinary team to resolve the issue or behavior.
- Documentation of DPC training\* by the staff at the facility.

Failure to contact the Network will result in a referral to DSHS.

The Network realizes there will be situations that require an immediate discharge; when this occurs, the Network expectation is to be contacted within 1 business day with the details and circumstances surrounding the discharge. The Network further recommends that facilities contact the Patient Services Coordinator for advice and support with any difficult patients or patient situations.

\* The DPC training materials can be found on our website at [www.esrdnetwork.org](http://www.esrdnetwork.org). Click on Professionals, Patient-Provider Conflict to access this resource.

For additional assistance with questions or concerns about the new C of C rule, DPC training or working with the ESRD Network of Texas, please contact the Patient Services Coordinator, John Gowan directly at 469-916-3808.

### **ATTN: Social Workers**

On November 18, 2008, AAKP is hosting a FREE conference call for ESRD patients and their family member on Depression. This educational conference is from 1:30 to 2:30 EST and will focus on understanding depression in kidney disease.



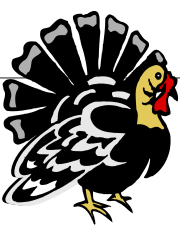
The Network staff is requesting that you notify your patients about this conference and provide the following registration information to them.

To register for upcoming HealthLine calls, please contact AAKP at (800) 749-AAKP or register online at <http://www.aakp.org/events/HealthLine/Upcoming-Calls/>.



# Network 14 November 2008 Calendar



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 1	Don't forget to VOTE on or before November 4th.					
2	3	4 Election Day	5	6	7 EMSystem update due October PAR's due	8
9	10  Non-LDO October FF data due	11	12	13	14	15
16	17 Missing Forms Due	18	19	20	21	22
23	24 Missing Forms Sent	25	26	27 Thanksgiving Day 	28	29
30						



**Data Reminder:** Submit all missing forms as soon as possible, forms received after 12/31/08 will be returned to the facility for entry through the Crown Web system.

# Monthly Netlink Evaluation

## Electronic Professional Newsletter Evaluation

Please tell us about the monthly Netlink. The ESRD Network of Texas, Inc. is committed to providing the most accurate and up to date information and resources to the ESRD community. We need your feedback to ensure we are accomplishing our goal. Please fill out this brief evaluation and encourage your colleagues to do the same. Complete and fax to 972-503-3219.

### \* 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

	Too overwhelming	Boring	Acceptable
The monthly Netlink is too visually...	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

### \* 3. Content of the monthly Netlink

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

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

### \* 5. What is your Profession?

MD

RN

SW

RD

ADM

Other

Other (please specify)

6. If you have any suggestions regarding how we could improve the monthly Netlink, please enter them in the box below.