Fall 2008

The mission of the Forum is to support and advocate on behalf of the ESRD Networks in promoting methods to improve the quality of care to patients with renal disease.

Forum Matters

Priority Issues

The Forum conducted a Strategic Partners' Meeting on October 3, 2008. Industry leaders were convened to provide the Forum with insight and recommendations for the Forum to more successfully meet its mission of providing support to the ESRD Networks. Key recommendations included:

- narrowing of the Forum's focus to more pointedly address its mission;
- development of partnerships with key organizations such as the Kidney Care Quality Alliance (KCQA) and the Quality Improvement Organizations (QIOs);
- provision of support to the Networks and facilities via creation of a resource center related to the Conditions for Coverage; and
- enhancement of the Medical Advisory Council's (MAC's) goal of constructing templates to assist facilities in assessing need and crafting QAPIs.

The Board of Directors met on October 4-5, 2008, and adopted the following motions:

- The Forum shall design and implement metrics to evaluate its effectiveness in fulfilling its mission with respect to the ESRD Networks.
- The Forum shall explore active participation in KCQA, and examine other focused and strategic partnerships. Relationships will be formalized in the form of Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs).
- The Forum will enhance its ability to provide a repository – for example via the website - to allow timely sharing of Network resources.
- The Forum shall develop and distribute to Networks an executive summary of Forum Board and Committee minutes and activities for presentation at Network Board and MRB meetings.
- The Forum will aggressively pursue resolution of the attribution issue with vehicles such as the following strategies: confer with QIO representatives; ; confer with the panel which developed the Institute of Medicine (IOM) Report; and confer with CMS (ie Dr. McGann, Quality Measurement & Health Assessment Group (QMHAG)); and pursue collaboration with Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ).
- The Forum will work to improve relations with CMS (i.e. establish a partnership with Survey & Certification).

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The National FORUM of ESRD NETWORKS
Improving Care Through Collaboration

Fall 2008

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Progress on Priority Issues

- Resources for the Conditions warehoused on the Forum website.
- Development of chat rooms on the Forum website for professionals associated with Networks is ongoing.
- The MAC has piloted a medication reconciliation questionnaire which, with the assistance of Network MRBs, it will enhance and make available to all facilities.
- The Patient Safety website, which was developed by the Forum in partnership with Renal Physicians Association (RPA), is now available.

Forum Representatives in the Renal Community

Dr. Goldman has been appointed as the Forum representative to KCQA.

Dr. Jackson is the Forum representative to the National Quality Forum (NQF).

Dr. Meyer serves as the Forum representative to the USRDS External Advisory Committee.

Drs. Garrett, Latos, and Goldman are on the National Kidney Disease Education Program (NKDEP) Coordinating Council.

Ms. Carlson and Ms. Kitsen are the Forum representatives to UNOS/OPTN.

Ms. Mayo and Dr. Goldman are on the Board of the American Association of Kidney Patients (AAKP).

Dr. Diamond attended the NQF Annual Conference in October.