

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 Board of Directors met on February 21 - 22, 2009. Priority issues were discussed and next steps identified.

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CNN, CPHQ

Forum Coordinator  
Bonnie Freshly, MEd, CMP  
PO Box 70835  
Richmond, VA 23255  
(804) 418-7990  
bfreshly@verizon.net

www.esrdnetworks.org



Forum Action/Motion	Next Steps
Improve communication between the Forum Board and the Forum membership	Resources on the recent OHRP citation will be distributed along with the MAC IRB algorithm and the JAMA article reference.  A communication algorithm was devised and will be reviewed with the Executive Directors.  A formal communication plan will be created.  Orientation materials for the MAC will be distributed in March.  Network leadership will be invited to participate in Board meetings conducted in their region.  A monthly email on NQF activity has been proposed.  The Policies & Procedures manual is being revised. When complete, it will be posted online to serve as a governance resource for Networks.  Forum Board members extend an offer to attend Network meetings to discuss the activities and value of the Forum.
Foster communication with CMS	Letters were sent to Dr. Straube and Dr. McGann in January, and follow-up calls took place in February. Topics included clarification on the contract renewal process, CROWNWeb, CPM data collection and reporting, and improving communication with Networks. A formal response from CMS is forthcoming.  A proposal to re-constitute the CPM QI Committee was submitted.  Discussions regarding attribution are on-going.
Provide resources to facilities for compliance with the Conditions for Coverage	Utilize the website to list services the Networks provide.  Development by the MAC of QAPI toolkits on four topics: medication reconciliation, vaccination, diabetes, and catheters.
Pursue partnerships to address national issues that affect the Networks	An opportunity to work with CMS and RPA on high-cost, low volume patient populations will be explored.  Communication with AHQA has been initiated and is on-going.  The Forum will participate in the Workplace Partnership for Life initiative.
Pursue the feasibility of collaborating to produce a Personal Health Record (PHR)	A working committee has been established to assess feasibility and consider how this issue fits with the Forum's focus and national priorities. It will present a proposal at the next Board meeting.
Evaluate the success of the Forum in meeting its mission	Metrics have been developed and a survey will be conducted this spring.
Educate the community about the contributions of the Forum	Historical documents will be provided via the Forum website.

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## The Forum and Networks Address National Concerns

Topics relevant to the Networks are being addressed nationally, and were addressed throughout the Forum Board meeting. In particular:

- CMS' seven elements of the redesign of the Networks: patient education, access to care, physical environment, grievance including involuntary discharge, disparities, quality measures to establish value and demonstrate attribution, and special projects
- The National Quality Forum's (NQF) four measures for care coordination: emergency department visits, preventable readmissions, adverse drug reactions, and hospitalization rates.
- The National Priorities Partnership's six priorities: patient and family engagement, population health, safety, care coordination, palliative care, and overuse.

The Forum Medical Advisory Council's (MAC's) development of QAPI templates and toolkits on the topics of medication reconciliation, vaccination, diabetes, and catheters will be a national resource and touch on many of these national priorities.

## Spotlight: Forum Involvement in KCQA

Dr. Goldman is the Forum representative to the Kidney Care Quality Alliance (KCQA), a collaborative effort of members of the kidney care community and health care community-at-large. The Forum became a member so that Network expertise in performance measure collection and analysis would be represented.

The goal of the Alliance is to involve patients and their advocates, care professionals, providers, suppliers and purchasers in the development of performance measures at the facility and physician levels to evaluate and improve the quality of care for patients with chronic kidney disease.

The Alliance will also focus on developing data collection and aggregation strategies and promoting transparency through the reporting of performance measures to consumers, patients, care professionals, dialysis facilities and others in the kidney care community to inform choice and improve outcomes. The Alliance will also be considering methods for pilot testing new measures to assess for unintended consequences, feasibility and usability.

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## Forum Representatives in the Renal Community

- Dr. Goldman is the Forum representative to KCQA.
- Dr. Jackson is the Forum representative to the National Quality Forum (NQF). Dr. Jackson will attend the NQF meeting on March 25-27 on "Waste Not, Want Not: The Right Care for Every Patient".
- 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.
- Dr. Goldman is on the Board of the American Association of Kidney Patients (AAKP).

## Upcoming Forum Meetings

- The Forum MAC will conduct its annual business meeting on Monday, April 6, 2009, in Baltimore, Maryland.
- The Forum Board of Directors will meet in Charleston, South Carolina, on June 6 - 7, 2009.

## Did You Know?

- The Forum was a key partner in the development of the Patient Safety Website (<http://www.kidneypatientsafety.org/>)
- The Forum assisted with the coordination of the national CPM QI Committee.
- The Forum was a leader in the development of the Decreasing Dialysis Patient-Provider Conflict (DPC) materials.