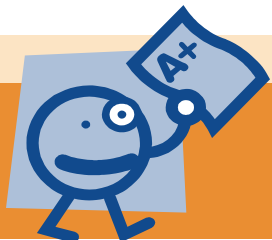


BE INVOLVED IN YOUR CARE!

Being involved in your own care is one of the best ways to ensure you are receiving good quality care.

You may want to ask your healthcare team the following questions related to your dialysis treatment:

1. What is my hemoglobin?
2. If my hemoglobin is not between 10 and 12, are there things that I can do to improve it?
3. Are there things that the dialysis staff can do to improve my hemoglobin?
4. What is my Urea Reduction Ratio (URR)?
5. If my URR is under 65%, are there things that I can do to improve it?
6. Are there things that the dialysis staff can do to improve my URR?
7. Do I have any lab values that are concerning to you?
8. How have my labs changed over the last few months?



SOUTHEASTERN KIDNEY COUNCIL CAN HELP!

If you still have questions or concerns about this new program or about the quality of care at your dialysis facility, talk to your physician, nurse, or the facility manager at your dialysis clinic.

You can also contact the Southeastern Kidney Council:

Southeastern Kidney Council
1000 St. Albans Drive, Suite 270
Raleigh, NC 27609
Phone: (919) 855-0882
Toll-Free: (800) 524-7139
Fax: (919) 855-0753
Email: info@nw6.esrd.net
Website: www.myskc.org

Southeastern
Network 6  **Kidney Council**

QUALITY INCENTIVE PROGRAM: A GUIDE FOR THE DIALYSIS COMMUNITY

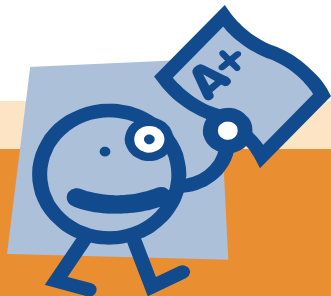
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES CENTERS for MEDICARE & MEDICAID SERVICES				CMS	
End-Stage Renal Disease Quality Incentive Program				Facility CMS Certification Number: XXXXXX	
2012 Certificate of Dialysis Facility Performance - Part 1				** The information communicated below is based on 2010 data. **	
Certificate of Dialysis Facility Performance					
This Facility Meets 1 of 3 Quality Standards					
TOTAL PERFORMANCE SCORE			27 out of 30		
National Average			29		
MEASURES OF QUALITY		FACILITY SCORE	NATIONAL AVERAGE	MEETS STANDARD	
Anemia Management: (Shows how well a facility keeps red blood cell counts in the target range)					
Percentage of patients with hemoglobin less than 10 grams per deciliter (g/dL)		10 of 10	9 of 10	YES	
Percentage of patients with hemoglobin greater than 12 g/dL		8 of 10	8 of 10	NO	
Dialysis Adequacy: (Shows how well a facility cleans blood during a dialysis treatment)					
Percentage of patients with urea reduction ratio of at least 65%		9 of 10	10 of 10	NO	
Facility Name and Address			Facility Director		
Facility Name Street Address City, State Zip			CMS Chief Medical Officer Director, Office of Clinical Standards and Quality		
Note: Dialysis facilities are required to post both parts of this Certificate prominently in a patient area.				This Certificate expires December 31, 2012.	

- This brochure is a guide to help you better understand this CMS program.
- Beginning in 2012, the Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is starting a new Quality Incentive Program.
- This program can impact the amount of money CMS pays a dialysis facility based on the quality of care at each facility.
- All facilities will be scored on their quality of care and will be given a Dialysis Performance Certificate that must be posted.

Southeastern
Network 6  **Kidney Council**

WHAT DOES THE SCORE MEAN?

- The facility report card that should be hanging up in your clinic has a few different scores on it.
- The scores come from two measures of quality of care based on the average of patients' laboratory values in:
 1. Anemia management (based on Hemoglobin)
 2. Dialysis Adequacy (based on URR)
- The score on the 2012 certificate came from patients' lab work values in 2010.
- Each year, your facility will get an updated score card. Next year's measures may be different.
- CMS wants you to know your facility's scores so you can compare your facility to other facilities.



INFORMATION ABOUT THE SCORING

- If your facility does not score at least 26 to 30 for each area, the money they receive from CMS will be reduced.
- The reduction is from .5% to 2% per year. See the below chart for more information:

Projected Payment Reduction Percentages	
Total Performance Score	% Reduction
26 to 30	No reduction
21 to 25	0.5%
16 to 20	1.0%
11 to 15	1.5%
0 to 10	2%
No calculated score	No reduction



WHAT DO THE LAB VALUES MEAN?

Anemia Management (Your blood count)

Anemia lab values are known as your HgB values. "HgB" stands for Hemoglobin. Hemoglobin is the part of the red blood cell that carries oxygen throughout the body. As a dialysis patient, your HgB should be between 10-12.

Dialysis Adequacy (how well is your blood being cleaned)

Dialysis Adequacy is measured by the lab value URR. URR stands for Urea Reduction Ratio. It is a measure of how well dialysis cleans the blood. Your URR should be 65% or greater.

Your URR and HgB are checked during your monthly lab work. You should ask for these and all other lab values each time they are checked.