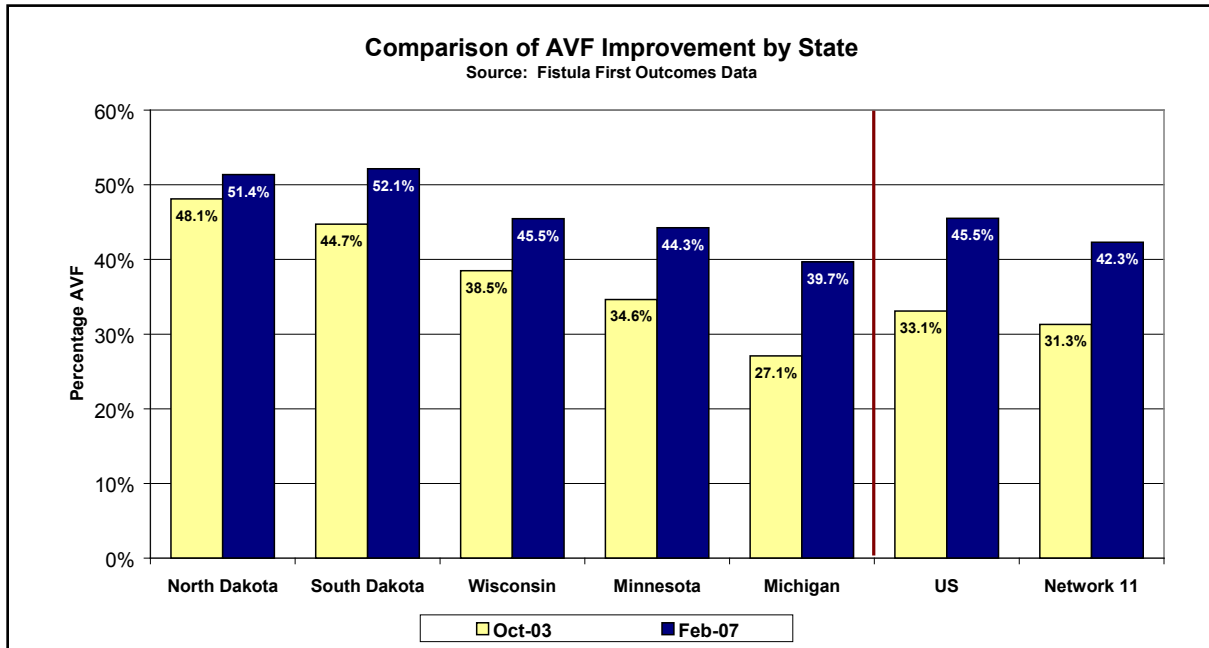


Renal Network 11

FISTULA FIRST NEWS

SPRING 2007



Coming Up...

- **Data reports and facility ranking** to all NW 11 facilities May 2007.
- **Improving AVF Rates Through a CKD and Anemia Management Clinic Conference:** May 22-23 Detroit and Grand Rapids, MI. Target audience: nephrologists and physician extenders. Stay tuned for more info.
- **Change concept best practices:** Network 11 facilities have given great feedback on the initiatives that have led to the greatest success in AVF improvement. Look for this informative tool coming this summer.
- **ND/SD Workshop:** Both a surgeon and facility workshop are being planned in the Dakotas this summer. Stay tuned for more info.
- **Regional surgeon's workshop:** A regional surgeon workshop will be conducted in Chicago on May, 17, 2007. See Network 11 website for brochure, and ask your surgeons to come!

Network 11 Goals

CMS National Goal: 66% AVF by June 2009

KDOQI Goal: 65% AVF prevalence

Network 11 Goal:

CMS NW 11 Goal: 41.2% AVF by March 2007

MRC NW 11 Recommended Goal: 50% AVF

MRC NW 11 Best Practice Goal: 65% AVF

Current AVF Rate is 42.3%
(February 2007)

Resources

www.fistulafirst.org

www.esrdnet11.org/quality/fistula_first

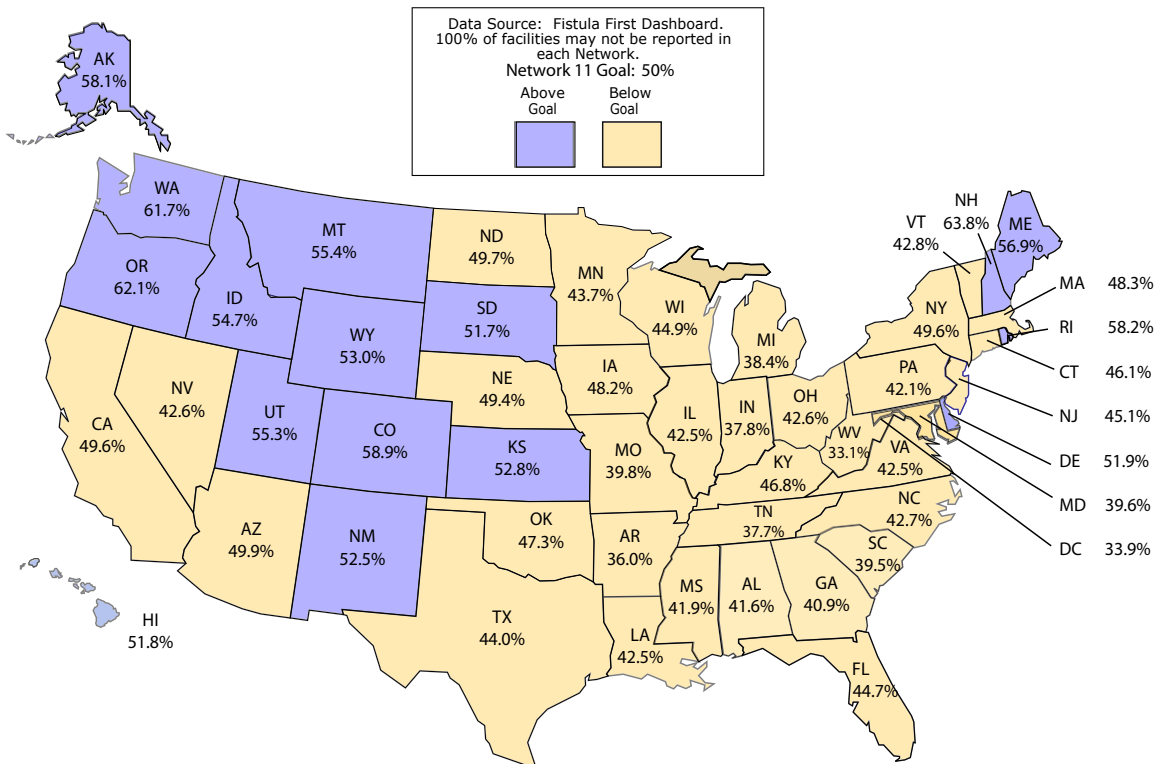
New Patient Education Resource Listing
<http://www.fistulafirst.org/FFBI20Patient20Education.pdf>

Give us your feedback!!

Please submit success stories, feedback and questions to
fistulafirst@nw11.esrd.net
651.644.9877



Comparison of AVF Prevalence by US State December 2006



Coalition Update

UPPER MIDWEST FISTULA FIRST COALITION

Mission

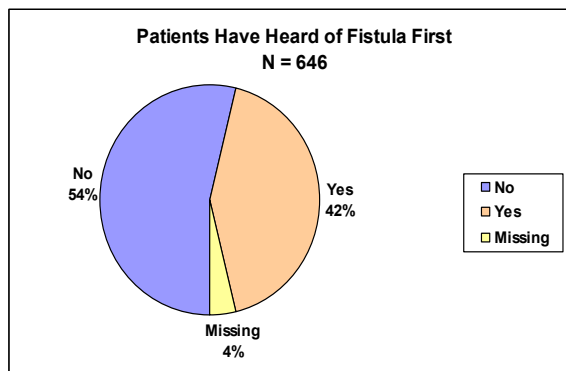
Improve the care received by chronic kidney disease (CKD) patients by identifying and implementing system-level changes that will lead to an increase in patients receiving hemodialysis via a native arteriovenous fistula.

The Upper Midwest Fistula First Coalition was started in 2005 and includes partnerships with quality improvement organizations (QIOs), state survey agencies (SSAs), payers, providers, patients, and others.

The coalition's three workgroups have made significant accomplishments in initiating strategies to improve AVF within Network 11:

- **Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) Management Workgroup:** Developed workshops to target the nephrologist and physician extenders to incorporate vascular access components into a CKD clinic model. Next workshop is being held in two cities in Michigan May 22-23, 2007.
- **Early Referral Workgroup:** Developing educational pocket card for primary care physicians to provide CKD education and early referral; also working with national labs to report and stratify eGFR on all reports measuring creatinine.
- **ESRD Workgroup:** Developed provider tool to help facilities prepare for a Medicare facility survey, specifically in the area of vascular access. Mailed to all facilities Fall 2006!

Patient Questionnaire *Sneak Peek*



The Fistula First Questionnaire was developed in conjunction with the Consumer Committee and was included in NW 11's patient newsletter Common Concerns. Dialysis facilities in NW 11 were mailed Common Concerns with the Fistula First Questionnaire, and patients were encouraged to complete the questionnaire and return it to NW 11. Questionnaire data is currently under analysis, but here is a sneak peek at what this data showed:

- NW 11 distributed 21,000 questionnaires, and 646 questionnaires were returned, a 3% return.
- 63% of respondents have an AV fistula in place; 30% have a HD catheter; 21% have an AV graft; 2.5% have a PD catheter.
- Patients are receiving information on fistulas.
- 42% of respondents have heard of Fistula First. Most state that they heard about Fistula First in the dialysis unit or from their doctor. 31% of respondents who have heard about Fistula First heard about it from their doctors.

Stay tuned for the final results!