



Web-Based Data Reporting

CMS is creating a Web-based reporting system for facilities to use in place of paper forms. Its release will be within a year of the effective date of the new Conditions of Coverage (COC)—currently expected in Summer 2007. The system, called CROWN (Consolidated Renal Operations on a Web-enabled Network), will fulfill electronic data requirements outlined in the new COC.

CROWN is expected to operate as follows: Facilities will use Internet access to securely enter data into a centralized database. As we currently do now, ESRD Networks will review data for accuracy and follow-up on missing or anomalous information before it is ultimately counted as accepted by CMS.

Facilities will need high-speed Internet access such as DSL, cable, T1, or faster. (Note: while the system is being designed to work over a dial-up connection, it is not expected to be very satisfactory.)

Independent facilities with no affiliation to a large national organization (such as FMC or Davita) will use their desktop computer to enter data into Internet browser-based forms. They will need staff with the time and skills necessary to enter data and to learn the business rules governing that data.

Facilities that are part of a large national organization will have their data extracted by administrators of their corporate databases and submitted to CMS in batch form. ESRD Networks will still review and approve this data.

As we learn more, Network 11 will share further details about how CROWN will operate and what resources you will need to use it.

Frequent Hemodialysis

Frequent hemodialysis (5 or more times per week—OR—nocturnal hemodialysis) is a growing treatment option. However, there is evidence to suggest that this modality has been under-reported in Network 11, as well as nationwide. In December 2006, the Network 11 Executive Committee requested a data reconciliation project to obtain more comprehensive data on patients who receive frequent hemodialysis. Our thanks to all of the facilities that responded to this request for information.

Ongoing, please report patients who receive this treatment on your monthly PAR. Always include number of sessions per week, number of hours per session, and the session location (home, in-center, etc). Your cooperation will help us to offer a more accurate assessment of patient outcomes with this modality.

2006 Data Compliance

CMS data compliance reports for 2006 will be mailed to all Facility Administrators in the coming weeks. The Medical Review Committee Guidelines for the CMS Data Compliance Requirement were mailed with the MRC Treatment Goals in late January. These data compliance guidelines are also posted to the Network 11 Website at: http://www.esrdnet11.org/assets/pdf/data_team/MRC_compliance_guidlines.pdf. If you have questions about data compliance, please contact Anne at: 651-644-9877.

Annual Surveys Coming

Mark your calendar! CMS-2744 forms (Annual Surveys) will be mailed to all facilities in mid-February. Completed Surveys will be due to Network 11 no later than March 9, 2006.