



CMS Releasing New 2746 Forms!

CMS is releasing a new 2746 (Death Notification) form. You should receive the new forms in mid-September. **Any patient deaths occurring after 9/30/04 MUST be reported on the new form.** A memo with details about this matter was sent to all 2746 contacts on August 23, 2004. If you have questions, call your Network 11 Data Contact.

VISION—a User's Perspective

VISION is a CMS software product that enables ESRD service providers to enter and transmit patient data electronically, in compliance with federal reporting requirements. Eligible providers are those not affiliated with large dialysis corporations, the military, VA, prison, or considered acute. In Network 11, Rice Memorial in Willmar, MN has used the software since early 2003. They describe their experience below:



*Debra Buffington BSN,RN,CNN
and Cheryl Bakker BSN,RN,CNN
Rice Memorial Hospital in Willmar, MN*

"We are happy using VISION. The installation and maintenance has not been difficult. We had our Information System Department at the hospital do the installation with us, and they found the directions were very concise. The upgrade software also went well. One of the benefits we have found with VISION is that it is easier to identify which patients need to have a 2728 completed (the "decision tree" format is wonderful).

It's easy to identify who we have completed forms on and who is still pending. VISION is also an easy way to report current patient addresses to the Network. VISION also makes it easy to print a 2728 form when sending a patient for a transient run elsewhere. Having a current patient roster report is much easier with VISION. Any problems we have had have been minimal, and Network 11 support has been the GREATEST! We even had to call QNet Support when we lost the whole hard drive of the computer where VISION was installed. We had a good response, and VISION was up and going on a new computer without lots of headaches or time. We suggest that when a facility starts with VISION, you have only a couple of people trained from the start, and let them feel comfortable before they bring on more people. Our only problem has been keeping track of the BLUE pen that both patient and MD should use when signing the 2728 form."

If you are interested in using VISION, please call Anne at the Renal Network 11 office (651-644-9877).

Are You Compliant?

Federal regulations require Medicare providers to submit CMS Medical Evidence (2728) and Death Notification (2746) forms to ESRD Networks. CMS has established performance requirements for the submission of these forms—a **rate of 90% or better for timeliness and accuracy is expected by facilities.** Twice a year, Network 11 issues CMS Forms Compliance Reports to all units, detailing performance outcomes. Network 11 is required to report noncompliant facilities to its CMS Regional Project Officer. Network 11 works with noncompliant facilities to identify barriers to effective reporting and improve compliance rates. Facilities that do not improve are asked to submit a corrective action plan. Chronically noncompliant facilities may be noted in the Network 11 Annual Report. The next compliance report will be issued this month (covering January–June 2004).