

Center for Medicaid, CHIP, and Survey & Certification/Survey & Certification Group

Ref: S&C: 10-30-ESRD

DATE: September 10, 2010

TO: State Survey Agency Directors

FROM: Director
Survey and Certification Group

SUBJECT: End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) Program Information and Communication:
Keeping Informed about Survey and Certification Areas Related to the ESRD
Program

Memorandum Summary

- **ESRD Surveyor Web sites:** The End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) Program has four key Web sites to help keep State agencies informed about survey and certification data, information, and operations related to the various program areas.
- **Web sites Refreshed Regularly:** All of these ESRD Web sites are refreshed as needed. The ESRD data Web site at www.dialysisreports.org will include the new ESRD data reports for each new fiscal year, beginning on September 1st each year.

ESRD Information and Communications Web sites: The following Web sites have been developed to keep States informed about and communicating with the CMS ESRD Program staff:

- **ESRD Comment/Question Mailbox:** Comments and questions regarding the ESRD Program should be addressed to ESRDSurvey@cms.hhs.gov. Individuals have the opportunity to ask and forward questions and comments to this Web site.

Access to this Mailbox is open to anyone with a survey-related question or comment, including surveyors, CMS staff, and external parties.

- **CMS S&C Web site for ESRD Information and Updates:** Individuals can access, as needed, information from the Web site at www.cms.hhs.gov/GuidanceforLawsandRegulations/05_Dialysis.asp. At this Web site, individuals can find current regulations and interpretive guidance, the outline of the basic ESRD survey process, the Measures Assessment Tool (MAT), survey tools and training materials, a compendium of frequently asked questions, State Operations Manual materials related to ESRD, survey and certification memoranda related to the ESRD program, and hyperlinks to other ESRD areas on the CMS Web.

Access to this Web site is open to the public.

- **CMS S&C Data Web site for ESRD Data Reports:** States and Regions are responsible for assigning a Master Account Holder for and reviewing, at least annually, the State-specific data which is available on the CMS ESRD data Website at www.dialysisreports.org. The ESRD data reports on this site provide a guide for ESRD surveys for each State. States are responsible for using these data reports to better understand and monitor the performance of individual dialysis facilities and the performance of the State as a whole relative to ESRD practice patterns and outcome performance. Each State must (1) use the State rank-ordered Outcomes List and the data profiles to select the facilities which receive surveys; (2) use the facility-specific Dialysis Facility Reports to determine specific survey focus and the extent of potential citations when surveying individual facilities; and (3) review the State profile to determine specific problem areas in each State, including not meeting expectations regarding fistula use or infection control practices. These data reports are refreshed for each Fiscal Year (FY). The FY2011 data reports will be available on this Web site on September 1, 2010.

This Web site has a section that is open to the public and a section that is password protected. No password is required to access the list of Master Account Holders and samples/guides to Dialysis Facility Reports, State/Regional Profiles. The password protected section of the Web site for surveyors (which is controlled by Master Account Holders for each State/Region) contains the individual Dialysis Facility Reports, the Outcomes Lists, and the State/Regional Profiles.

- **Surveyor Technical Assistant for Renal Disease (STAR) Project Collaboration site:** Surveyors who are trained to use the STAR program can access, as needed, information from the STAR Collaboration site at www.alpinetg.com/star. This Website provides a way for STAR surveyors to find and share information about the STAR program and their survey experiences. At this Web- site, a STAR user can ask questions, share information with other surveyors, and access documents such as user manuals, training materials, and job aids.

Access to this Web site requires a password. This access is limited to surveyors who have completed the STAR training.

Comments on the Web sites: If you have any comments or questions about these Web sites, feel free to contact Judith Kari at judith.kari@cms.hhs.gov.

Effective Date: Immediately

Training: This policy should be shared with all survey and certification staff, their managers and the State/RO training coordinator.

/s/

Thomas E. Hamilton

cc: Survey and Certification Regional Office Management