

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
Special Open Door Forum:
Medicare Coverage of Kidney Disease Patient Education Services

Thursday, November 6, 2008
2:00 PM – 3:30 PM Eastern Time
(Conference Call Only)

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) will host a Special Open Door Forum to discuss Section 152(b) of the Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-275), which provides coverage for Kidney Disease Patient Education Services for individuals with Stage IV chronic kidney disease (CKD). The forum will be held via audio-conference on November 6, 2008 at 2:00 PM – 3:30 PM Eastern Time.

These services are designed to provide individuals with comprehensive information on:

- the management of comorbidities (including for purposes of delaying the need for dialysis);
- prevention of uremic complications;
- each available option for renal replacement therapy (including hemodialysis and peritoneal dialysis at home and in-center as well as vascular access options) and kidney transplantation.
- the opportunity to actively participate in the choice of therapies and provide information tailored to individual patient needs.

We are most interested in comments regarding the following topics.

- What are the specific competencies that the clinician referring the patient for kidney disease patient education services and the qualified individual providing the education services should possess?
- What are the accepted clinical criteria (or standards of practice) for diagnosing someone with Stage IV chronic kidney disease (CKD)?
- What kind of information does a patient need in order to make an informed decision regarding the available dialysis, vascular access, and kidney transplant options?
- What additional clinically appropriate topics should be discussed with the patient (for example: dietary/fluid restrictions)?
- What are the different modalities of education (for example: web, group session) appropriate for kidney disease patient education services?
- What are the existing chronic kidney disease education resources that are publicly available? In addition to the resources, please provide information regarding sponsorship or funding provided to produce the existing education programs.

We look forward to your participation.

Special Open Door Forum Participation Instructions:

Dial In: 1-800-837-1935

Reference Conference ID: 70344910

Note: TTY Communications Relay Services are available for the Hearing Impaired. For TTY services dial 7-1-1 or 1-800-855-2880 and for Internet Relay services click here <http://www.consumer.att.com/relay/which/index.html> . A Relay Communications Assistant will help.

An audio recording of this Special Forum will be posted to the Special Open Door Forum website at http://www.cms.hhs.gov/OpenDoorForums/05_ODF_SpecialODF.asp and will be accessible for downloading beginning November 14, 2008.

For automatic emails of Open Door Forum schedule updates (E-Mailing list subscriptions) and to view Frequently Asked Questions please visit our website at <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/opendoorforums/>

Thank you for your interest in CMS Open Door Forums.