



Center for Clinical Standards and Quality/Survey & Certification Group

Ref: S&C: 15-41-ESRD

DATE: June 12, 2015
TO: State Survey Agency Directors
FROM: Director
Survey and Certification Group
SUBJECT: Surveyor Guidance for Approval of Home Dialysis Modalities

Memorandum Summary

End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) - Approval for Home Dialysis Modalities: The ESRD facility must have at least one patient on census who (and/or their caregiver) is in the process of being trained or has been trained by the facility interdisciplinary team (IDT) for each home dialysis service/modality for which it is applying.

For approval of each home dialysis modality for which an ESRD facility is applying, there must be at least one patient on census who, and/or their caregiver, is in the process of being trained or has been trained by that facility. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) will not accept the transfer of an already trained home dialysis patient and/or “borrowing” qualified home dialysis staff from another certified facility for initial approval of a home dialysis program. This does not constitute evidence that the applying facility meets the requirements to demonstrate that the facility will continue to provide safe and effective care for these patients on an ongoing basis.

Because home dialysis patients are not at the facility on a frequent basis, surveyors are not required to observe staff providing care to them during the survey. The surveyor is expected to contact and interview the patients receiving home dialysis services from the facility, or their caregiver if the patient cannot be interviewed.

Contact: Please email any questions to the ESRD mailbox: ESRDQuestions@cms.hhs.gov.

Effective Date: Immediately. This policy should be communicated with all survey and certification staff, their managers and the State/Regional Office training coordinators within 30 days of this memorandum.

/s/
Thomas E. Hamilton

cc: Survey and Certification Regional Office Management