

Data-Driven Excellence: How End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) Networks Are Revolutionizing Quality Through Data Analytics

Advanced Analytics and 100% Technical Assistance Coverage Drive Continuous Improvement

CMS' End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) Network program is harnessing the power of data to drive unprecedented quality improvements across kidney care, ensuring every decision is informed by the most complete and accurate information possible.

To ensure responsible management of quality improvement resources, ESRD Networks are strengthening overall data accuracy and validation through sophisticated systems and dedicated expertise. Networks employ specialized staff capable of performing advanced data analysis and validation using the End-Stage Renal Disease Quality Reporting System (EQRS) and other relevant data sources.

ESRD Networks collect, validate, and analyze data to support and maintain the ESRD patient registry as mandated by Section 1881 of the Social Security Act. They actively manage data quality through identification and correction of discrepancies in patient and facility-level data throughout EQRS and other relevant ESRD data sources.

The program focuses on resolving critical data challenges, including:

- Reconciling routine and acute terminations for the Social Security Administration
- Resolving Near Matches, System Discharges, and Accretions within 60 days
- Participating in EQRS system demonstrations to provide feedback on functionality and proposed enhancements
- Universal Technical Assistance

ESRD Networks ensure that 100% of dialysis facilities and transplant centers have access to technical assistance for managing patient and facility-level census data within EQRS. This universal coverage means no facility is left behind. Additionally, they identify dialysis facilities that may benefit from additional support and provide them with targeted technical assistance to ensure ongoing improvement and success. They reconcile ESRD data reports, respond to system alerts and network-specific notifications in a timely manner, and provide ongoing follow-up to facilities as needed.

The ESRD Network program emphasizes near real-time data analytic support to both providers and the government in a manner that reduces provider reporting burden while enhancing quality oversight.

By ensuring data accuracy, providing universal technical assistance, and leveraging advanced analytics, the program creates a foundation for continuous quality improvement that benefits kidney patients across the nation.