



Center for Medicaid and State Operations/Survey & Certification Group

Ref: S&C-09-01

DATE: October 3, 2008

TO: State Survey Agency Directors

FROM: Director
Survey and Certification Group

SUBJECT: Advance Copy – End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) Program Interpretive Guidance
Version 1.1

Memorandum Summary

ESRD Interpretive Guidance Update: Attached is an advance copy of the ESRD Interpretive Guidance. This Interpretive Guidance will also be published in an updated Appendix H of the State Operations Manual (SOM).

The attached ESRD Program Interpretive Guidance represents the most recent guidance related to the 42 CFR Part 494 Conditions for Coverage for ESRD facilities. This Interpretive Guidance should replace all previously-released versions.

The Measures Assessment Tool (MAT) is appended to the Interpretive Guidance. The MAT is a reference tool which is mentioned in the Patient assessment Condition, the Plan of care Condition, and the Quality assessment and performance improvement Condition of the regulations and corresponding guidance. The MAT is a guide for current professionally-accepted standards and values for listed clinical elements for each of the Conditions listed above.

- In using the MAT for individual patient assessments and plans of care, patient target levels should be assessed using the MAT. However, each patient should be treated individually and when a specified target is not met, either the plan of care should be adjusted to achieve the community-accepted standard or an explanation should be provided by the interdisciplinary team member of the group. Initially, goals for some patients may need to be different from these targets and then incrementally changed to the standard value as the patient outcomes improve.
- In using the MAT for facility-based quality assessment and performance improvement (QAPI), facilities are expected to use the MAT as a reference guide for community-accepted standards/values associated with clinical outcomes. If the facility has areas of QAPI that do not meet target levels (based upon the MAT), the facility is expected to take action toward improving those outcomes.

Attachment A is an advance copy of the interim final ESRD Interpretive Guidance version 1.1. This version has been modified to clarify certain areas and to incorporate feedback from previously-released versions. This guidance will ultimately be published in Appendix H of the State Operations Manual (SOM). Appendix H in the SOM may differ slightly from this advance copy and will be formatted in portrait style, per agency standards.

Effective Date: Immediately. Please ensure that all appropriate staff are fully informed within 30 days of the date of this memorandum.

Training: The information contained in this letter should be shared with all survey and certification staff, their managers, and the State/RO training coordinators.

If you have additional questions or concerns, please contact Judith Kari through email at Judith.Kari@cms.hhs.gov.

/s/

Thomas E. Hamilton

cc: Survey and Certification Regional Office Management

Attachment