

**End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD)
Network (NW) Organization Program
External Stakeholder
Meeting Instructions**

Event: End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) Network (NW) Program Redesign

Agency: Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), Department of Health & Human Services (HHS).

Date of Meeting(s):

Stakeholder	Date	Time	Location
CMS ESRD NW Contractors	8/28/08	1:00 – 2:00 PM	CMS Quality-Net Conference
ESRD Advocates/Patients	9/4/08	9:00 – 4:30 PM	Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
CMS ESRD NW Contractors	9/16/08	12:00 – 4:30 PM	Web-Ex Conference
ESRD Providers	9/11/08	9:00 – 4:30 PM	Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
ESRD Researchers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manufacturers • Pharmaceutical companies • Academic Institutions 	9/19/08	9:00 – 4:30 PM	Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

Summary: CMS will be hosting a series of public meetings on the ESRD NW Program. We invite feedback and recommendations from external stakeholders to identify quality-improvement opportunities for the ESRD NWs. These meetings will focus on how we can transition (redesign) the program to achieve greater strength in the following areas:

- Value
- Attribution
- Oversight
- Improved Outcomes

Special Accommodations: Persons attending the meeting who are hearing or visually impaired, or have a condition that requires special assistance or accommodations, are asked to contact Cheryl Bodden at (410) 786-6875, no later than a week prior to each meeting.

Deadlines:

- A) **Registration:** Individuals who intend to register must by e-mail at: ESRDNW_StakeholderMeeting2008@cms.hhs.gov, no later than one week prior to each meeting.

Addresses: Meeting Location: The meeting locations for each session are listed below.

- A) CMS ESRD NW Contractors (8/28/08) – Location: Baltimore Convention Center, One West Pratt Street, Baltimore, Maryland.
- B) ESRD Advocates/Patients (9/4/08) – Location: Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, 7500 Security Blvd., Baltimore, MD 21244, in the multi-purpose room.
- C) ESRD Providers (9/11/08) – Location: Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, 7500 Security Blvd., Baltimore, MD 21244, in the multi-purpose room.

D) ESRD Researchers (9/19/08) – Location: Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, 7500 Security Blvd., Baltimore, MD 21244, in the multi-purpose room.

Web Site: You may access up-to-date information on these meetings at: <http://esrdncc.org>

Supplementary Information: On April 15, 2008, CMS published the End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) Conditions for Coverage (CfC) in the *Federal Register/Vol. 73, No. 73*. This regulation will enhance the quality of care available to more than 336,000 Medicare beneficiaries with ESRD who receive dialysis treatment from more than 4,700 Medicare-approved renal dialysis facilities across the U.S. The regulation reflects important clinical and scientific advances in dialysis technology and standards of care practices. The regulation focuses on the importance of patient rights, patient safety, and the patient's participation in the development of his or her own plan of care. Each facility is required to develop a quality assessment and performance improvement (QAPI) program that would track the facility's performance in patient health outcomes. The ESRD CfC meets CMS' overall goal of protecting patient safety, enhancing ongoing quality improvement, and improving the patient's experience of receiving dialysis services.

Registration Instructions: The Quality Improvement Group is coordinating the meeting registration. While there is no registration fee, individuals must register to attend. Register by e-mail (see Deadlines: A. Registration). Please provide your full name, address, organization, telephone, fax number(s), e-mail address, and indicate which stakeholder session you plan to attend. Several of these meetings are located on federal property; therefore, for security reasons, any individuals wishing to attend must register. Also, due to capacity limitation at the CMS meeting location, we can only accommodate the first 250 registrants. Therefore, we ask organizations to limit staff attendance to no more than **four** individuals per company.

Security, Building, and Parking Guidelines: Several of these meetings will be held in a federal government building; therefore, federal security measures are applicable. In planning your arrival time, we recommend that you arrive reasonably early to allow additional time to clear security.

In order to gain access to the building and grounds, individuals must present valid government-issued photographic identification (i.e. driver's license) to the Federal Protective Service or Guard Service personnel before being allowed to enter.

Security measures also include a full inspection of vehicles, inside and exterior areas (trunk and engine) at the entrance to the grounds. In addition, all individuals entering the building must pass through a metal detector. All items brought to CMS, whether personal or for the purpose of or the support of a demonstration, are subject to inspection. We cannot assume responsibility for coordinating the receipt, transfer, transport, storage, set-up, safety, or timely arrival or any personal belongings or items used for or to support a demonstration.

Parking permits and instructions will be issued upon arrival.

NOTICE: Individuals who are not registered in advance will not be permitted to enter the building and will be unable to attend the meeting. The public may not enter the building earlier than 30 to 45 minutes prior to the meeting.

All visitors must be escorted in all areas, except for the lower and first floor levels of the CMS building.