

# Objective Key Result 3 | Transplant

*Learning and Action Network (LAN)*

January 18, 2024

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ESRD National Coordinating Center



# Meeting Logistics



Call is being recorded



All participants are muted upon joining the call

We want to hear from you.

Type questions and comments in the “Chat” section, located in the bottom-right hand corner of your screen.



Meeting materials will be posted to the ESRD NCC website

# Ways to Spread Best Practices from Today's LAN

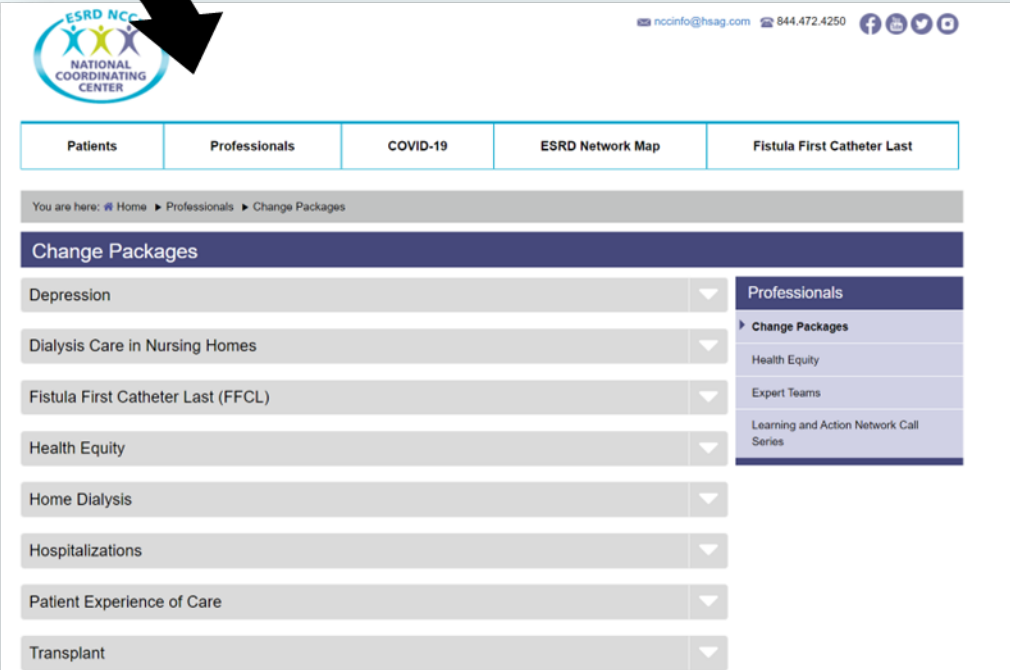
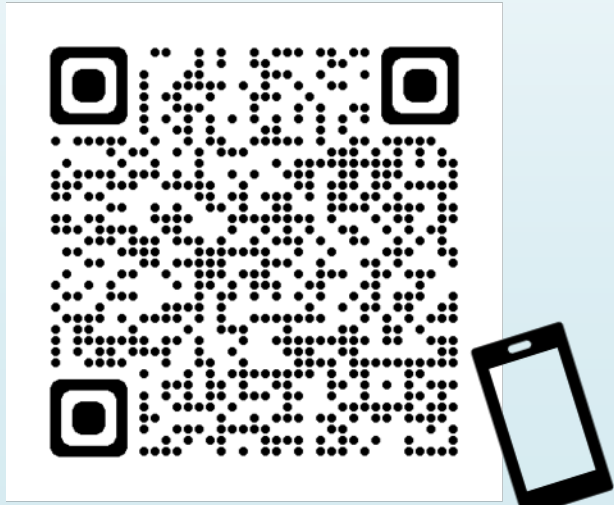
- Share your approaches and experiences via Chat
- Identify how today's information could be used at your facility
- Apply at least one idea from today's LAN at your facility
- Commit to sharing your learnings and ideas with other colleagues

Learning and Action Networks (LANs) bring people together around a shared idea, opportunity, or challenge to offer and request information and experiences to improve the identified topic of discussion.

# Answer using *Chat*

## Make sure it's set *To: Everyone*

Have you previously applied best practices from the change packages to improve outcomes?



The image shows a QR code on the left, with a curved arrow pointing from it to a screenshot of a website on the right. The website is the ESRD NCC National Coordinating Center. The top navigation bar includes the ESRD NCC logo, contact information (nccinfo@hsag.com, 844.472.4250), and social media icons. The main content area has a navigation menu with tabs for Patients, Professionals, COVID-19, ESRD Network Map, and Fistula First Catheter Last. Below this, a breadcrumb trail reads 'You are here: Home > Professionals > Change Packages'. The 'Change Packages' section is expanded, showing a list of topics with dropdown arrows: Depression, Dialysis Care in Nursing Homes, Fistula First Catheter Last (FFCL), Health Equity, Home Dialysis, Hospitalizations, Patient Experience of Care, and Transplant. A sidebar on the right lists 'Professionals' with sub-items: Change Packages (highlighted), Health Equity, Expert Teams, and Learning and Action Network Call Series.

# Special Guest Presentation –

**ESRD Treatment Choices Learning Collaborative (ETCLC)**





**ESRD Treatment Choices Learning Collaborative**  
*The CMS/HRSA Kidney Donation & Transplant Initiative*

An overview to the five-year CMS/CMMI/HRSA collaborative focused on increasing deceased kidney transplants, reducing non-transplanted kidneys and increasing the utilization of high-KDPI kidneys.

Visit us at: [etclc.org](https://etclc.org)

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*January 18, 2024*



ESRD Treatment Choices Learning Collaborative  
The CMS/HRSA Kidney Donation & Transplant Initiative

# Agenda

- Where We Are
  - Background
  - Recruitment & Retention
  - National AIMS
- Success & Key Strategies
  - QI Teams
  - Patient & Donor Family Engagement
- Discussion

# Questions to Run On How Might We . . .

Improve communication between dialysis facilities and kidney transplant programs?

Improve patient education towards transplant?

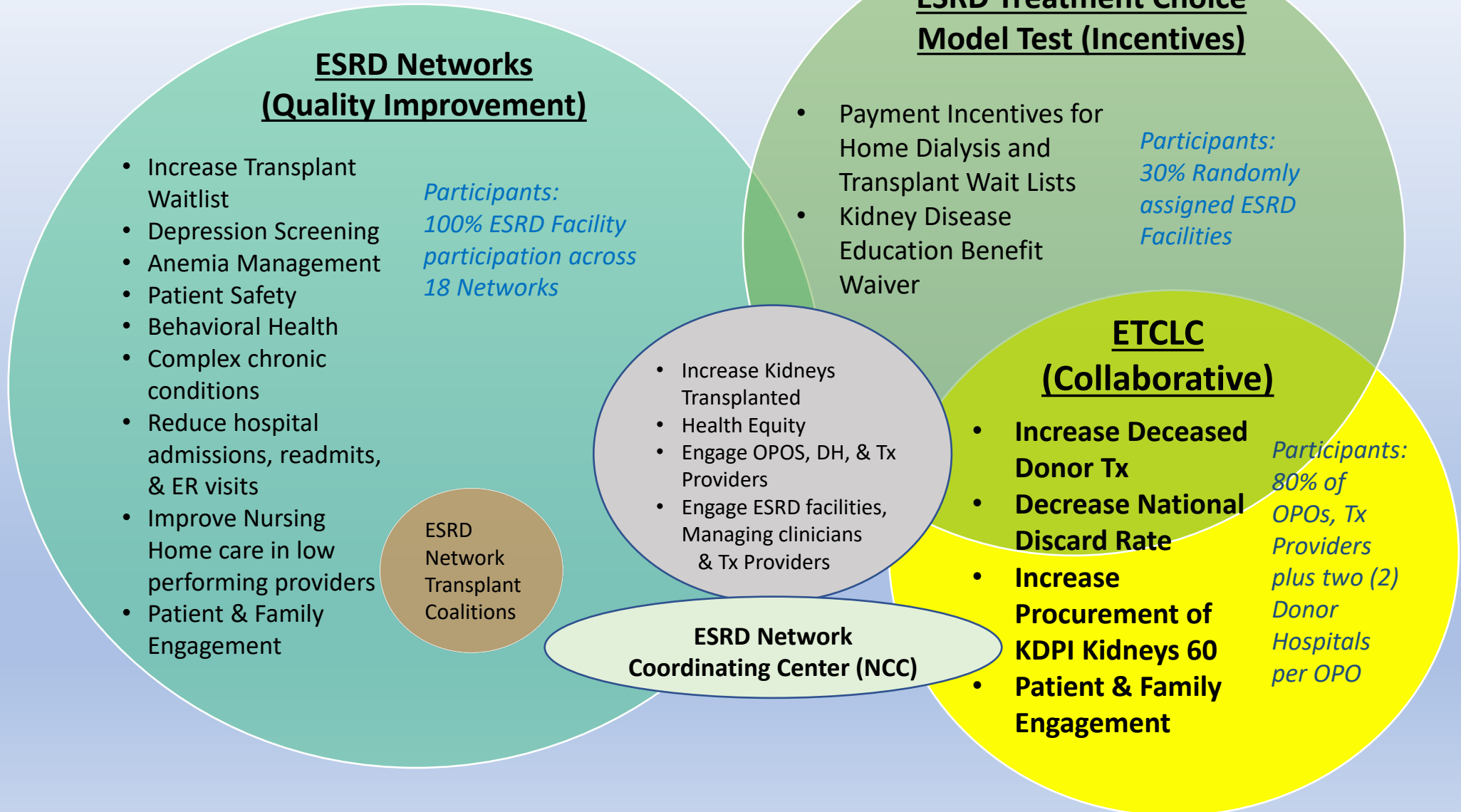
Improve patient readiness for transplant?

Decrease the national kidney discard rate?



# Where We Are in the CMS ESRD Program

# ESRD Program Intersections



# How the Collaborative Works



ESRD Treatment Choices Learning Collaborative  
The CMS/HRSA Kidney Donation & Transplant Initiative

## NATIONAL AIMS

1. Increase the Number of Deceased Donor Kidneys Transplanted
2. Decrease Nonuse Rate of KDPI <60  
Decrease Nonuse Rate of KDPI >=60
3. Increase the Number of KDPI >=60 Kidneys Recovered for Transplant

## Community At A Glance

The National Faculty (NF)  
12 National experts  
3 Patient Representatives

Leadership Coordinating Council (LCC)  
25 Organizations supporting the ETCLC

Patient & Donor Family Engagement (PFR) SMEs  
25 ESRD patients, Transplant Recipients, & Donor Families  
1 PFR per QI Team

25 Quality Improvement Teams  
13 Adult Transplant Teams  
11 Donation Teams  
Combined, April 2023  
1 Pediatric Team (23 Tx Hosp)

Representing 400+ organizations, inclusive of Transplant Centers (80%)  
Donor Hospitals & OPOs (93%)

Identify, Plan, Implement, Evaluate, Revise, Retest, Monitor, Share → Repeat

*Collaborative efforts from the ETCLC community, QI Teams, and each individual organization's initiatives directly impact guidelines and best practices. (Donation and Transplant Change Packages)*

# Quality Improvement (QI) Teams

## 25 QI Teams

- Donor Hospitals, OPOs, Tx Centers
- PDSA cycles/best practices
- Peer-to-Peer solutions



## Pacing Events

- Webinar-based QI team to peer learning
- Real-time sharing sessions

## Change Packages (etclc.org)

- Insights/experiences
- Enhancements: linking team initiatives to AIMS progress



# Patient and Family Representative (PFRs) Participation and Insights

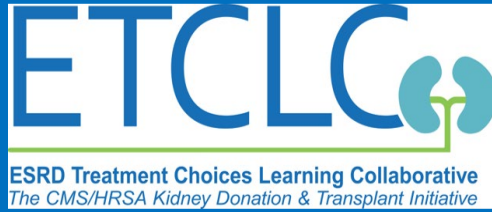
Represented and engage in monthly QI teams - Assist with initiatives

PFRs meet every other month - share their lived experiences on ETCLC pacing events

Collaborate quarterly with NCC – how to keep patients active on the waitlist

Collaborate quarterly with National Patient & Family Engagement LAN

Bimonthly Meetings - Transplant, Waitlist, Donor Families, Identify patient resources on the benefits of expanded kidney criteria and use of >60 KDPI kidneys



## Participant Highlights:

- National Faculty includes three Patient Representatives
- 23 transplant centers are designated as children's hospitals

# Recruitment and Retention

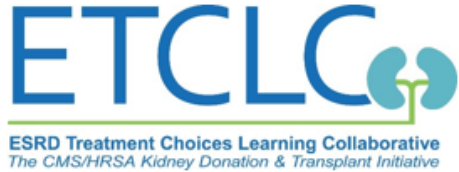
Participants	2021 Recruiting Requirement	Retained as of December 2023	Percentage Retained
National Faculty	6	<b>13</b>	100+%
LCC Organizations	20	<b>24</b>	100+%
QI Coaches	25	<b>26</b>	100+%
OPOs (56)*	46	<b>54</b>	96%
Transplant Centers (228)*	184	<b>181</b>	80%
Donor Hospitals (>/= 2 per DSA)	106	<b>119</b>	100+%
<b>Total</b>	<b>387</b>	<b>418</b>	<b>100+%</b>

*\*70% Retention Requirement. Minimum of 40 OPOs & 160 Transplant Centers  
2021 Recruitment Goal of 80% was met or exceeded*

# Current State



# The National AIMS



**National Aims  
Through  
9/30/2023**

Aim	September 2023	Projected	Target	Status
<b><i>Aim 1. Increase the Number of Deceased Donor Kidneys Transplanted</i></b>	22,099	22,997	21,621	
<b><i>Aim 2A. Decrease Nonuse Rate of KDPI &lt;60</i></b>	8.9%	9.9%	7.2%	
<b><i>Aim 2B. Decrease Nonuse Rate of KDPI ≥ 60</i></b>	49.3%	51.4%	35.0%	
<b><i>Aim 3. Increase the Number of KDPI ≥ 60 Kidneys Recovered for Transplant</i></b>	14,330	15,821	12,864	

All counts and rates are based on a 12-month lookback ending in last month of available data.  
Projections, based on predictions from LOESS regression models, are compared to targets to determine status by the end of August 2024.



## ***ETCLC Successful Improvement in Aim 1 and Aim 3: Target Exceeded***

- Increased the number of DCD kidneys transplanted to 22,033 - exceeding the target by 3.8 percent.
- Increased the number of KDPI ≥ 60 kidneys recovered for transplant to 14,116 - exceeding the target by 16.9 percent.

# Quality Improvement Initiatives by AIM



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Progress Reported from  
March 1, 2022 – October 31, 2023

Quality Improvement Initiatives		
Aim	Number of QI Initiatives	Distribution
<i>Aim #1. Increase the Number of Deceased Donor Kidneys Transplanted</i>	259	64%
<i>Aim #2. Decrease Nonuse Rate</i>	126	31%
<i>Aim #3. Increase the Number of KDPI <math>\geq 60</math> Kidneys Recovered for Transplant</i>	20	5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>405</b>	<b>100%</b>

180 Organizations have reported on 405 QI Initiatives through October 31, 2023, as of December 4<sup>th</sup>



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# 2023-2024 | Focused Projects

## Donation Focused Projects

- Donor Management
- Family Readiness, Honoring First Person Authorization (FPA) & the Right Approach
- Donor Hospital & OPO Relationships
- Maximizing an Interdisciplinary Donor Council (IDC)
- Use of EMR
- Declaration Consistency

## Transplant Focused Projects

- Waitlist Management
- Use of UNOS Organ Offer Filters
- Patient Education
- Near Real Time or After-Action Reviews
- Biopsy Utilization to Rule
- Transplant Center & OPO Relationships



## What I Need to Know About Donating My Loved Ones' Organs

### Understanding Organ Donation

Is your loved one registered as an organ donor? Or have they talked about their interest in donating their organs? Having a conversation about their choice for donation is extremely important.

It is also important for you to understand that organ donation from your loved one only happens after they have died or suffered an irreversible injury where there is no opportunity for returning to a meaningful life. This resource will help you discuss the choice for organ donation and honor your loved ones' wish, or choice, to be an organ donor.

#### Discuss The Choice of Donation

- Know your loved ones' wishes and ask if they are a registered organ donor.
  - Support them in registering at [RegisterMe.org](https://www.registerme.org)
- Be clear about organ donation details and minimize "what if" circumstances.
- Discuss what organ donation means to you and your loved one.
- It is more than one conversation.
  - As we age, or our life circumstances change, it is important to discuss end-of-life choices, and document them through a living will or the [Five Wishes](#).
- Speak to your loved ones often about their wishes and choices for end-of-life services.

#### Honoring Your Loved Ones' Wishes

- Listen to and ask questions of your loved one's care team.
- Accept when your loved one has suffered irreversible damage.
  - What are their wishes in this circumstance?
  - Are they a registered organ donor?
- Partner with the hospital during this difficult time as they contact the local organ donation organization. They will support your loved one's donation.
- Grieve your loss and celebrate the Gift of Life for another.
- Learn from others who have experienced loss and organ donation.

# PFR Resources

## Understanding and Agreeing to Better Than Dialysis Kidneys

### Better Than Dialysis Kidneys

can be a good option for you if you are older, have other medical conditions in addition to kidney disease, or if you have been on dialysis for several years.



Considering and accepting a *Better Than Dialysis* kidney can also shorten your time on the transplant waitlist. These kidneys may also be called expanded criteria or high KDPI kidneys.

#### Expanded Criteria Kidneys

Expanded criteria kidney donors have the following risk factors:

- Donor age is over 60, or over age 50 with these risk factors:
  - History of high blood pressure,
  - Stroke as the cause of death,
  - Serum creatinine level over 1.5 mg/dL before the kidney is removed (this shows the level of kidney damage).

Accepting one of these kidneys can improve your **quality of life** while also providing rest from dialysis.

Your transplant center must get your **written permission** to consider one of these kidneys for you. The kidney may not be perfect but could be a great option for you. These kidneys may require some dialysis after the transplant to "kick start" the function of the kidney, but your transplant team will have a plan for that.

#### High Kidney Donor Profile Index (KDPI)

KDPI is used to provide each kidney with a score to help transplant professionals match the right kidney for you. KDPI scores are based on characteristics of the individual donating the kidney. A high KDPI kidney score may be based on a kidney donor's:

- Age, height, and weight,
- Race/ethnicity,
- History of high blood pressure and diabetes,
- Cause of death,
- Serum creatinine level, and
- Presence of hepatitis C.

All or any of these characteristics can help determine how long the kidney will function for you.

Higher KDPI scores are expected to function for a shorter amount of time and every transplant and recipient's experience will vary. These kidneys may be a good option if you do not want to stay on dialysis for a long time.

Ask your nephrologist or transplant team about Expanded Criteria and High KDPI kidneys - they are *Better Than Dialysis*.

# Discussion

## Dialysis Facilities:

What is working?

Transplant Center partners

- Referral process
- Communication
- Education
- Pre/post-transplant

What is missing?

## ESRD Networks:

What is working?

Transplant Coalitions

- Best/emerging practices
- Identifying gaps

What is Missing?

# Thank You!

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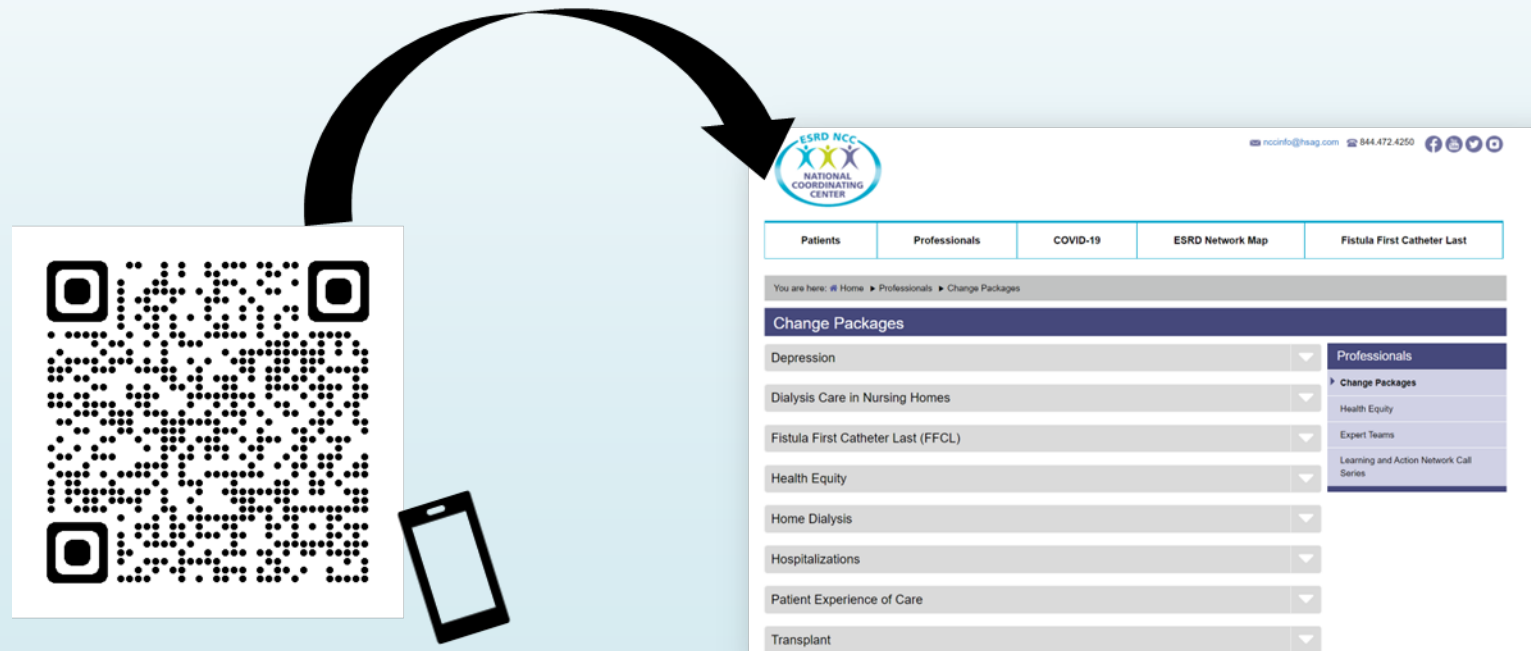


# Moving from Learning to Action

Share best practices from this presentation with your colleagues.

Use the ESRD NCC Changes Packages to improve patient outcomes and overall patient experience of care.

*Please complete the post-event survey.*



The diagram illustrates the transition from learning to action. A QR code is shown on a smartphone screen, with a large black arrow pointing to a screenshot of the ESRD NCC website. The website screenshot shows a navigation menu with 'Change Packages' selected, and a list of topics including Depression, Dialysis Care in Nursing Homes, Fistula First Catheter Last (FFCL), Health Equity, Home Dialysis, Hospitalizations, Patient Experience of Care, and Transplant.

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# Thank you!

Please take a one moment to complete the post-call survey.

