

Kidney *Chronicles*

END-STAGE RENAL DISEASE NETWORK OF NEW ENGLAND

FEBRUARY 2015

HELPFUL TIPS TO
EMPOWER ESRD
PATIENTS AS
CONSUMERS



Improving Healthcare
for the Common Good®

A Valuable Resource: Dialysis Facility Compare

The Dialysis Facility Compare website, available at Medicare.gov/Dialysis, can help you compare dialysis facilities and choose the one that is right for you. If you are a patient or someone helping a patient make decisions about his or her healthcare, the website can help you:

- Locate a dialysis facility;
- Compare the performance and the quality of services provided by dialysis facilities in your area;
- Learn more about kidney disease and dialysis; and
- Learn more about Medicare coverage of dialysis and transplantation.



About Dialysis Facility Compare Quality Measures

Dialysis Facility Compare provides information on the quality of care provided by dialysis facilities by comparing how facilities perform on quality measures. Quality measures are tools that help us measure or quantify healthcare processes, outcomes, patient perceptions, and organizational structure and/or systems that are associated with the ability to provide high-quality healthcare and/or that relate to one or more quality goals for healthcare.

In addition to the information provided on Dialysis Facility Compare, each dialysis facility is required to display a Performance Score Certificate that shows how the facility performed on quality measures over

How the Network Serves You

- Advocates on your behalf;
- Answers your questions about treatment, modality choices or other issues;
- Develops and provides educational materials, i.e., newsletters, for you and your family;
- Works with renal professionals to improve the care provided to you;
- Helps keep you informed and updated to support your involvement in your care and treatment options; and
- Evaluates and resolves grievances.

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the past year. If you have any questions about your facility's scores or any information that you see on Dialysis Facility Compare, speak to a member of your facility's administration team or contact the Network.

The care that your facility provides to you can affect how you feel overall, as well as the length and quality of your life. A review of facility quality measures can help you understand which facilities provide good care; give you insight about questions you might want to ask your dialysis facility staff and your doctor; and can help facility staff understand how they can improve the care they provide to you and others.

Remember these important points:

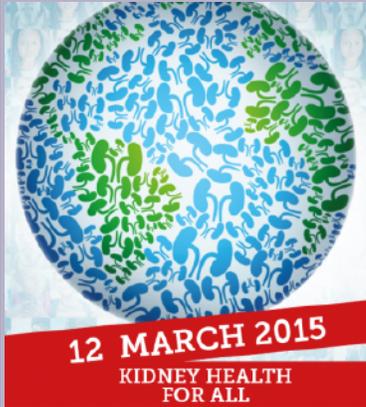
- Quality measures are one of several things to consider when choosing a dialysis facility.
- You should find out if a dialysis facility meets your needs. For example, is a facility near your home? Does it provide the type of dialysis you want? Look at other information on this website, including facility services.
- Some facilities may have higher ratings on quality measures because of the type of patients they serve. Make sure you understand what the numbers mean before you make a decision. Remember to talk to your doctor about the information you find.
- You can print out the quality information to take with you when you visit dialysis facilities.
- Feel free to ask dialysis facilities about their quality ratings.

How do I use the information on Dialysis Facility Compare?

Patients, families, and care partners should carefully review the information on **Dialysis Facility Compare**. Use it—along with other information—to make decisions about where you should get dialysis.

If you're a patient or someone helping a patient with his or her healthcare decisions, you can:

- Review the services and performance of dialysis facilities near you.
- Check the "Related Websites" section of the site for other websites that provide useful information about dialysis quality.
- Read information from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) about kidney disease, Medicare coverage of dialysis and transplant, and other topics of interest.
- Talk to your doctor and local dialysis facility staff about what this information means and how you can use it to make healthcare decisions that are right for you.



World Kidney Day is celebrated on the second Thursday in March, to raise awareness of the importance of our kidneys to our overall health and to reduce the frequency and impact of kidney disease and its associated health problems worldwide.

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To file a grievance, please contact:

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