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KICC News

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This Issue: QIOs Focus on CKD | Unified Support for eGFR Reporting | ESRD-DM Trends | Observing Kidney Month

CMS QIOs Now Required to Focus on CKD

CMS recently issued a 9th Statement of Work (SOW) for Medicare's Quality Improvement Organizations (QIOs) to improve the quality, safety, and efficiency of health care services delivered to Medicare beneficiaries.

A new quality improvement effort required of the QIOs is to reduce the progression of chronic kidney disease (CKD) to end-stage renal disease (ESRD). To do so, QIOs will need to:

1. Focus on three clinical areas, each with a corresponding clinical measure. These areas include detection of CKD in diabetic beneficiaries, appropriate medication treatment (ACEI/ARBs) to slow the progression of kidney failure, and adequate counseling prior to initiation of dialysis as evidenced by placement of an AV fistula for hemodialysis patients.
2. Use collaboration as a means of achieving sustainable CKD system level changes. All QIOs must monitor the effect of their CKD interventions on disparities and must take immediate corrective action if disparities in care are increasing.

QIOs may opt to engage in the following three optional tasks: supporting companion CMS quality initiatives, improving CKD care via electronic health records, and decreasing CKD care disparities identified in their state.

CMS' goal is to make sure that the QIOs are providing CMS beneficiaries with the best quality of care through the use of available tools as they work with consumers, physicians, hospitals, and other caregivers to refine the nation's care delivery systems. QIOs will begin work on August 1, 2008, after their proposals have been accepted. *For more information, please contact Teresa Casey at mary.casey@cms.hhs.gov.*

Key Organizations Unite in Support of eGFR Reporting

The American Society of Nephrology (ASN) has partnered with key organizations to create a letter urging nephrologists to support and help facilitate the reporting of estimating glomerular filtration rate (eGFR) by all hospital and commercial clinical laboratories located in the United States. Partners include the American Association for Clinical Chemistry, American Diabetes Association, College of American Pathologists, and the National Kidney Disease Education Program.

The letter, which is being sent to ASN's membership in advance of World Kidney Day, highlights that an estimated 26 million adults in the United States have some evidence of kidney impairment and many are unaware of it. To date, serum creatinine concentration has been the usual means of assessing kidney function. However, creatinine concentration has a complicated relationship to kidney function, which may lead to inadequate recognition of CKD. Recent data from the Modification of Diet in Renal Disease study has confirmed the usefulness of a formula for eGFR in adult patients. In spite of some limitations, the eGFR formula is a significant improvement over reporting serum creatinine concentration alone for assessing kidney function.

To view the letter, click here:

http://www.asn-online.org/newsletter/renal_express/2008/sl.pdf

For more information, contact

Andrew Narva at narvaA@nidk.nih.gov.

CDC Presents Diabetes-Related ESRD Incidence Trends

During ASN's Renal Week (November 2007), Nilka Ríos Burrows, MT, MPH, an epidemiologist for the CDC's Division of Diabetes Translation (DDT), presented findings on diabetes-related ESRD (ESRD-DM) among Blacks and Native Americans. Here are the highlights from her presentation.

Although incidence of ESRD-DM has decreased since 1997 among persons with diabetes aged less than 75 years, little is known about age-specific trends among Blacks and Native Americans (NAs) with diabetes—two groups at an increased risk for ESRD-DM. Using data from the U.S. Renal Data System and from the National Health Interview Survey, the DDT—with the help of NIDDK and the IHS Division of Diabetes Treatment and Prevention—researched the incidence rates and trends of both groups aged 20 and older.

They found that between 1994 and 2004, the number of ESRD-DM cases increased from 568 to 856 among NAs, and from 7,812 to 12,382 among Blacks. However, throughout the period, ESRD-DM incidence decreased among NAs with diabetes in all age groups. Among Blacks with diabetes, more years of data are needed to assess incidence trends among those aged 20-44 years (possibly increasing) and those aged 45 years or older (possibly decreasing).

This analysis shows that progress is being made, however, interventions to reduce the prevalence of ESRD risk factors and improve care among persons with diabetes are needed to prevent ESRD-DM. *For more information, please contact Nilka Ríos Burrows at nrios@cdc.gov.*

CDC Observes National Kidney Month

In observance of National Kidney Month, CDC's homepage will host a feature story on kidney disease and World Kidney Day from March 10 through March 16. Additionally, CDC is featuring a notice to readers in the February 29th issue of MMWR highlighting National Kidney Month and a report in March covering hospitalization trends for kidney disease in United States from 1980-2005. *For more information, please contact Nilka Ríos Burrows at nrios@cdc.gov.*

NKDEP Announces New Associate Director

We are pleased to announce that Eileen P. Newman, MS, RD, is NKDEP's new Associate Director. Eileen brings over 25 years of public health experience to her new position. She directed model public health programs at the National Centers of Excellence in Women's Health at the HHS Office on Women's Health. She also developed educational materials for the National High Blood Pressure Education Program and the National Cholesterol Education Program at NHLBI. While at USDA, Eileen helped to shape the national education outreach efforts for the *Dietary Guidelines for Americans* and the *Food Guide Pyramid*. *To contact Eileen, please write to eileen.newman@nih.gov.*

Please send your story ideas for future issues of *KICC News* to Eileen Newman at eileen.newman@nih.gov.