

The Renal Network, Inc.
2006 Annual Report – ESRD Network 9/10

3. Goal 2 - B. Pilot Study: Barriers to Transplantation Project.

In 2005, The Renal Network coordinated a special study to look at barriers for patients in being placed on the transplant waiting list. In this study, a Technical Expert Panel (TEP) examined barriers to transplantation and developed suggested clinical performance measures to assess a patient's progress to gain placement on the transplant waiting list. In 2006, using the information which was developed by this TEP, The Renal Network began a pilot study with volunteer dialysis facilities and transplantation centers. The pilot will assist facilities in Cleveland and Indianapolis to improve referral rates using a standardized transplant referral form which complements the long-term care plan.

The goal is to increase the timeliness of transplant referral for eligible patients by determining where patients have difficulty in completing the process for transplant work-up. This project aims to develop a process to improve communications between dialysis centers and transplant centers with the ultimate goal of improving the rate of transplant referral.

The volunteer transplant centers in Cleveland and Indianapolis have agreed to provide the dialysis facilities with a list of exclusions and update the dialysis providers with information which shows the dialysis providers where the patients are in completing the transplant referral process.

Baseline data will be collected from the dialysis providers on transplant referral rates. Data will be collected throughout the pilot to demonstrate whether this newly described process assists in increasing referrals. This project was ongoing at year-end 2006.